LIVERPOOL FC



Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine

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PHIL GOOD FACTOR

"I WANT TO WIN TROPHIES WITH THIS GREAT CLUB"

MR LIVERPOOL

Special tribute to Ronnie Moran

AWESOME ANFIELD

THE ULTIMATE MATCHDAY PHOTO ALBUM

PURE GINI-US

Wijnaldum talks us through his goals

TERRY MCDERMOTT

Win a signed copy of his new book!

BASQUE MASTER

The very, very best of Xabi Alonso

ISSUE 057



Contents

Issue 57 May 2017

May's issue pays tribute to a Liverpool FC great, speaks to Philippe Coutinho about Anfield's Brazil blend and asks Gini Wijnaldum about his LFC goals so far…

LIVERPOOL

A lively front section exploring the wider LFC world and keeping fans up-to-date with what's happening and what's about to.

FOOTBALL

The stuff that happens on the pitch: exclusive interviews with current Reds stars, the stats that matter plus a few blasts from the past.

CLUB

How the club reaches out to communities at home and abroad, plus stadium news, fab official merchandise, and fan representatives.

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Wijnaldum
Lovren
Milner



Inner sanctum
Here's a peek at the Liverpool FC home dressing-room at Anfield, as you may never have seen it before. It's brand new, of course, fitted out as part of the Main Stand project to bring the players' facilities at the famous stadium into the modern footballing era. This shot was taken on the day of the Merseyside derby, with a special edition of the matchday programme commemorating the life and career of Ronnie Moran.



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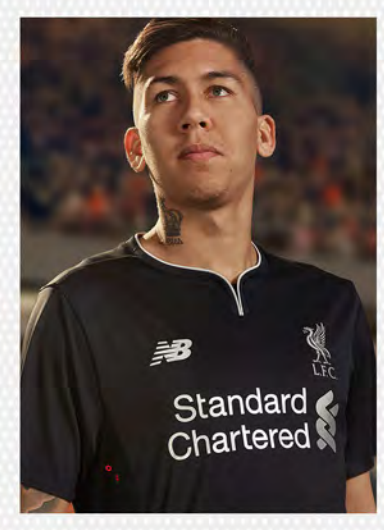
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The Shankly Gates have a new home on Anfield Road this season but do you know in what year they were first unveiled?
Answer p98

Tributes to the late, great Ronnie Moran, LFC Legends tackle their Real Madrid counterparts and focus on the month ahead

REMEMBERING RONNIE

LFC legend Ronnie Moran passed away on 22 March 2017 at the age of 83, and the tributes that poured in said it all…



Jürgen Klopp

"I had the honour of meeting him [Ronnie] last year around the League Cup final. Obviously I am not from Liverpool, I am not from England, and so I needed a little bit of help but when I heard about this very special story then it was really nice to meet him. It was a big honour for me.

"Today is a very sad day for all of us. All of our thoughts and all of our love are with the family. We tried to pay our respects like a football club should do for a real member of the club, a real figure of the club, with a minute of silence [before a training session in Tenerife]. It was impressive because the players were immediately in the mood; all of them have heard about him and that shows how special his relationship with this great club was.

"I am sure nobody can, or will, forget him. It's a sad day, but on the other hand it is a day where everybody thinks about him and thinks about his very, very special story."

Jordan Henderson

"When hearing the news that Ronnie had passed away after a short illness, one of the first things that struck me was the massive impact he'd had on the club. All the roles he'd performed and all the success he'd been part of makes his story so special. From being a player and captain, to coach, physio, assistant and even caretaker manager.

"When I joined Liverpool I would see Ronnie at Melwood, where we would regularly come for a walk around the training ground. The way people spoke about him was with such reverence and respect, you knew he was a person of great importance and significance.

"As sad as moments like this are, they really make you appreciate the sort of club this is. And it's people like Ronnie who have made it what it is."

Kenny Dalglish

"My respect and my admiration for him are absolute and there are countless others who feel the same way. I can say without fear of contradiction that those sentiments are not held only by Ronnie's former colleagues at Liverpool, they are shared throughout the game by many who represented other clubs.

"The reason for that is simple – no matter what he accomplished, Ronnie remained the same down-to-earth bloke throughout the entirety of his career. His approach to football was very uncomplicated and that was one of the things that made him stand out.

"Like many others, I am deeply saddened by his passing but along with the grief there is



also a profound sense of privilege of having worked alongside someone who devoted his entire working life to Liverpool and who will always be remembered as a great club servant who was never affected by the enormous success that he enjoyed."

Roy Evans
"He's one of these guys that day in, day out, did his job and did a great job for Liverpool Football Club. Liverpool and the fans will remember him for the great man that he was and he'll be sadly missed. I'm sure he will be remembered with great love and affection for what he did for our football club and it's a sad time for us. Ronnie Moran is one of the greats of Liverpool."

Phil Thompson
"Throughout all those times, those glory days, you needed somebody to keep the feet on the ground of all these superstars, and this guy was the man. Every day he was the driving force. Sometimes as a young man you'd think: nothing satisfies this man. But without him we would not have won half the trophies we did at Liverpool. This is not just a flippant comment: Bill Shankly, Bob Paisley – great. Ronnie Moran is up there with those two greats."

Jamie Carragher
"There are a lot of legendary figures involved at LFC through history. Ronnie Moran would be close to number one. Different managers come and go, but Ronnie was a constant throughout all of that great success of Liverpool at home and abroad. The man who decided at 18 I should play centre-back before anyone else had even thought of it. Thank you Bugsy!"

Steven Gerrard
"It's devastating news for all our fans and everyone connected to the football club, because Ronnie Moran was part of the furniture, he has been around for many, many years and he's a big part of the reason why this club is so successful and it's got an incredible history. You think of iconic figures – Bill Shankly, Bob Paisley, Joe Fagan and Kenny Dalglish – and Ronnie Moran is up there with those names."

Terry McDermott
"RIP Ronnie, you were a good man. Gone but never forgotten, my thoughts are with your family at this sad time."

John Aldridge
"Sad day for LFC, with the passing of Ronnie Moran. What a servant, the club was in his blood. Condolences to all his family."

Robbie Fowler
"So sorry to hear this. Deepest sympathy to all the family, thoughts and prayers with you. The man deserves the legend status."

Ian Rush
"It's a sad day in football! RIP Mr Liverpool. Ronnie Moran you will be greatly missed!"

Ronnie Whelan
"Terrible news to hear of the passing of Ronnie Moran. A huge influence on the great teams of the 60s, 70s and 80s. RIP Bugsy."

Jason McAteer
"Absolutely devastated to hear the news of Ronnie Moran. I will be forever indebted to him for my time at LFC, the man's a true legend. God bless."

Jim Beglin
"Really upset to hear about Ronnie Moran. He was the strongest voice in the dressing-room and improved an awful lot of LFC players."

Luis Garcia
"He was walking around Melwood every day! He couldn't be far from the pitch where he belonged. LFC's greatest, Ronnie Moran RIP."

Neil Mellor
"Very sad to hear of the passing of Ronnie Moran. A man who gave great inspiration and influence throughout so many years at Liverpool."

David Thompson
"Absolutely gutted to hear that Ronnie Moran has sadly passed away this morning. He was a legend."

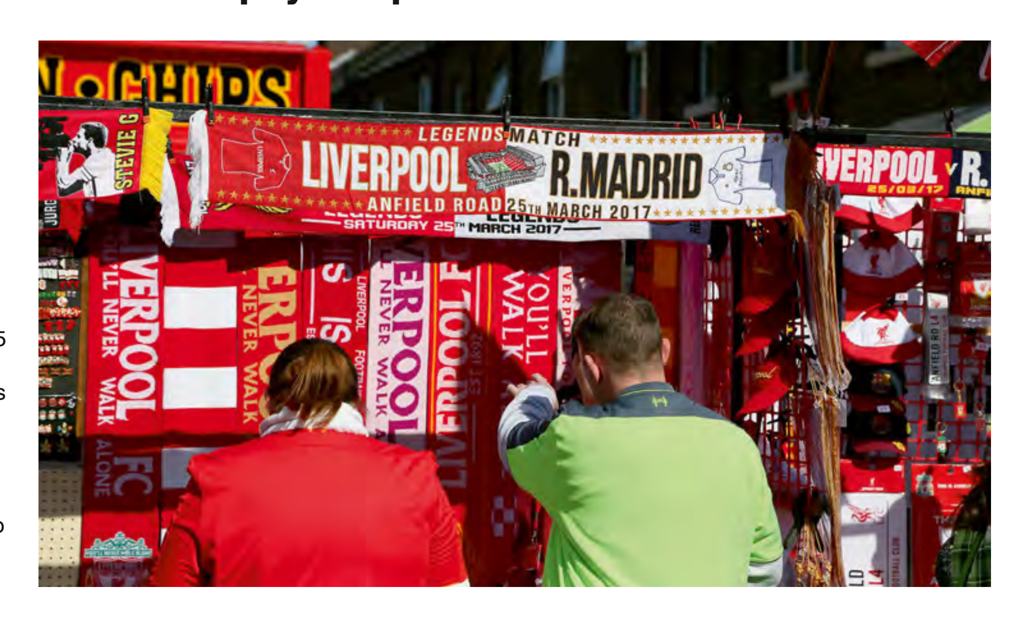
Everton FC
"We are deeply saddened at the passing of a Merseyside football great, Ronnie Moran. Our thoughts are with his family and friends."

SUNSHINE AND SUPERSTARS

Legends of Liverpool and Real Madrid play their part in front of sellout Anfield crowd

A crowd of 53,000 were at Anfield to watch Liverpool FC Legends defeat their Real Madrid counterparts in a seven-goal show last month, in what was a rare opportunity for fans of all ages to witness some of the world's best former players appear together at an equally legendary venue.

Prior to kick-off, there was also applause for the late, great Ronnie Moran. It was the 'return leg' of the charity match which took place in 2015 at the Bernabeu in Madrid, and all proceeds will support the programmes and partnerships of the LFC Foundation, the club's official charity, aiming to improve the health and life-chances of youngsters in Merseyside and beyond. The LFC Foundation also worked alongside KitAid to provide recycled football kit for distribution





to underprivileged children and communities around the world.

Andrea Cooper, head of LFC Foundation, said: “It was such a great day and a phenomenal success! The sun shone on us and it was a fantastic occasion for everyone to get together and celebrate what it means to be part of the LFC family.

“We managed to raise some vital funds which we will use to support children and young people across the city and beyond, and we will announce the proceeds total as soon as we can.”

For the visitors, it was an unforgettable experience. Real Madrid’s Clarence Seedorf said: “I absolutely enjoyed it from the first to the last minute. It’s a great cause and participating in these kind of games



is an honour. I'm not the first and I won't be the last to say that Anfield is absolutely fantastic."

Team-mate Luis Figo added: "It's always amazing to play in stadiums like Anfield with this atmosphere, even when it's for a charity game."

The former world player of the year also praised Steven Gerrard for his man-of-the-match display: "Everyone wants to play with the best players and Gerrard has shown in his career that he was one of the best in his position. For Liverpool it was lucky because he could show his quality here at Anfield."

Ex-Reds full-back John Arne Riise summed the occasion up from a playing point-of-view: "Even if I had something scheduled I would cancel it to come here. It's my club, my home.

"It was amazing to come back."



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REDS ON INSTAGRAM

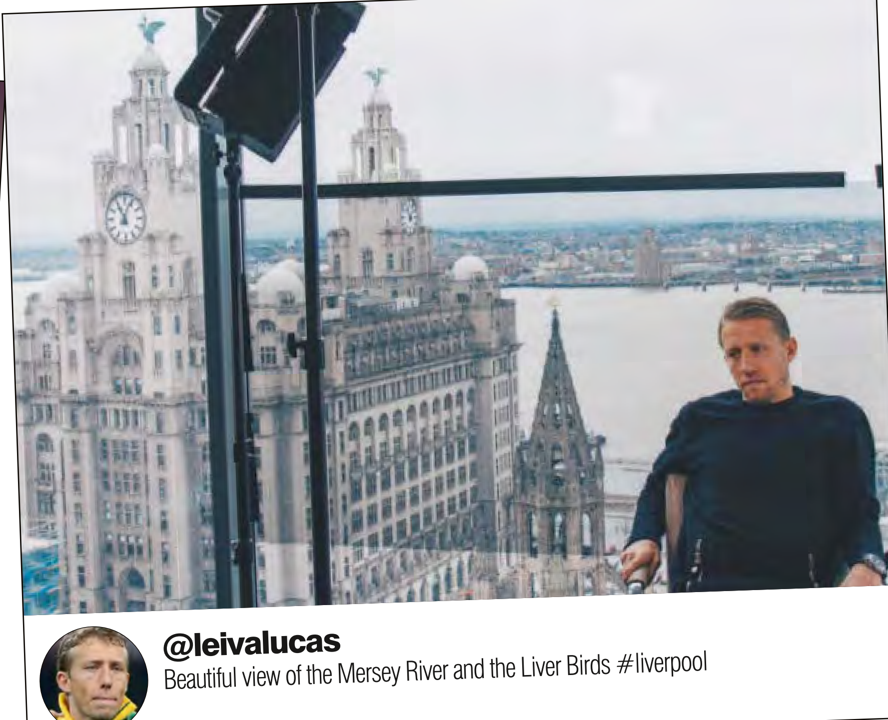
Rounding up some of the best posts from Reds players and fans



@phil.coutinho
Gloria DEUS 🙏 🇧🇷



@liverpoolfc
Have a boss weekend! 🔴



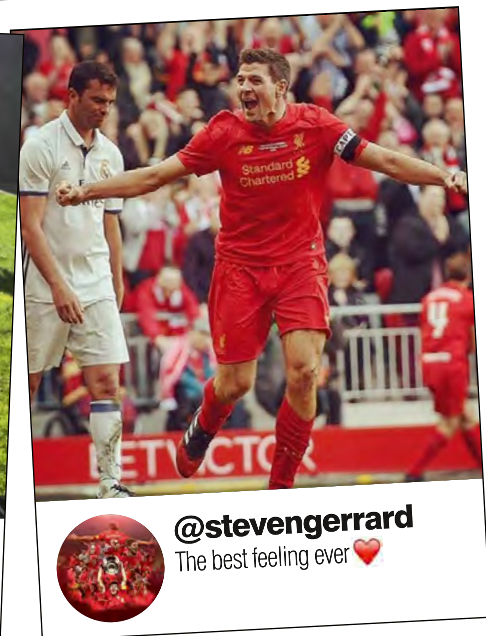
@leivalucas
Beautiful view of the Mersey River and the Liver Birds #liverpool



@23_carra
Lovely touch & send off for Bugsy from @liverpoolfc today #liverpool



@dejanlovren06
Great day today ☀️ and a great win 💪 well done boys #ynwa

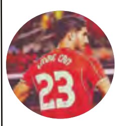


@stevengerrard
The best feeling ever ❤️



@roberto_firmino
My baby ❤️





@ec2323
Very important 3 points in a very tough game!!! Happy to score the winning goal #WEARELIVERPOOL #ynwa #EC23 😬





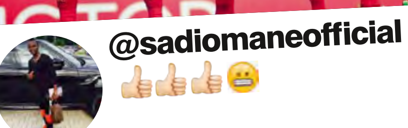
@paddypb23
Awesome day at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club #LFCFoundation #LFCREALLEGENDS #Hoylake #YNWA





@lorisk21
😉 #worldtattooday #tattooday #loveit #throwback #Thailand #LK1





@sadiomaneofficial
👍👍👍😬

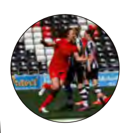


@lfcretail
Signed #LFC Merchandise liverpoolfc.com/store 👉



@luchogarcia14
For all time sake!! #Legends #oncearedalwaysared #LFCreallegends #Didi #Carra #Nando





@carolineweir95
Buzzing to be in the semi finals of the FA Cup! Great effort from the team today 👏





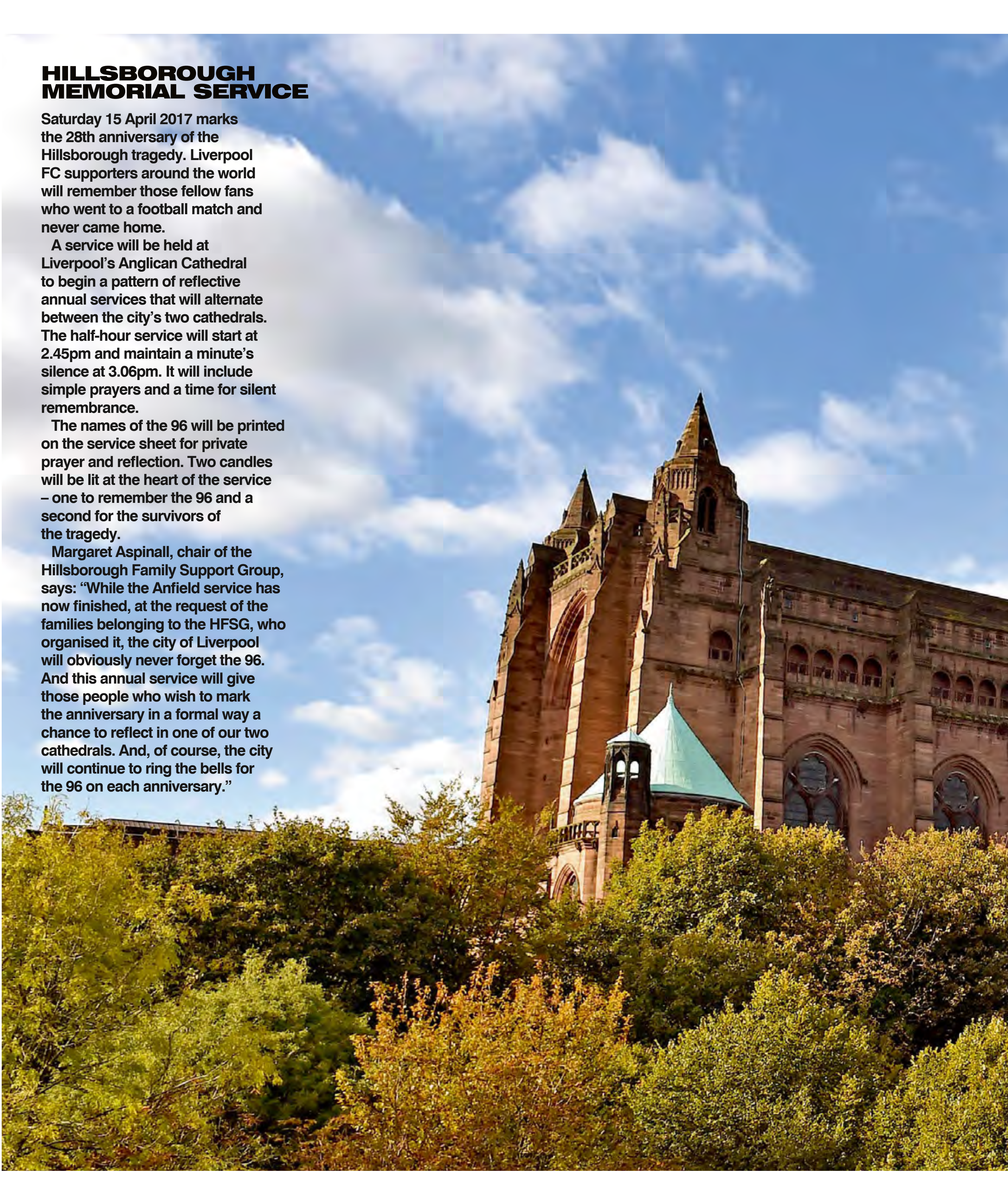
@divockorigi
No better feeling than scoring in a derby! Liverpool is red 🔴🔴🔴 #WeAreLiverpool #YNWA⚽🔥🔥





@theanfieldwrap
Having a chat with Terry McDermott #liverpool #LFC

WHAT'S



HILLSBOROUGH MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday 15 April 2017 marks the 28th anniversary of the Hillsborough tragedy. Liverpool FC supporters around the world will remember those fellow fans who went to a football match and never came home.

A service will be held at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral to begin a pattern of reflective annual services that will alternate between the city's two cathedrals. The half-hour service will start at 2.45pm and maintain a minute's silence at 3.06pm. It will include simple prayers and a time for silent remembrance.

The names of the 96 will be printed on the service sheet for private prayer and reflection. Two candles will be lit at the heart of the service – one to remember the 96 and a second for the survivors of the tragedy.

Margaret Aspinall, chair of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, says: "While the Anfield service has now finished, at the request of the families belonging to the HFSG, who organised it, the city of Liverpool will obviously never forget the 96. And this annual service will give those people who wish to mark the anniversary in a formal way a chance to reflect in one of our two cathedrals. And, of course, the city will continue to ring the bells for the 96 on each anniversary."

ON:APR

CRYSTAL CLEAR

Following the home games against Everton and Bournemouth at the start of the month, the Reds return to Anfield to take on Crystal Palace on Sunday 23 April (kick-off 4.30pm). Liverpool won the corresponding fixture 4-2 at Selhurst Park back in October with defender Joel Matip scoring his first goal for the club.



AWAY DAYS

Sandwiched between the Anfield engagements for April are back-to-back away games. On Saturday 8 April, Jürgen Klopp takes his side to the Potteries to face Stoke City (3pm), chasing a Premier League double following the 4-1 home win just after Christmas. On Sunday 16 April the Reds visit The Hawthorns aiming for a repeat of the result which saw them defeat West Bromwich Albion 2-1 on home soil in October.



CELEBRATING 125

Another thing to keep an eye out for during April is the big reveal of Liverpool FC's playing strip for 2017/18. The kit will feature a special 125th anniversary crest which will be used by the club throughout next season. Stay tuned to LFCTV and liverpoolfc.com for all the details.



SPRING SERIES

Liverpool Ladies begin the new FA WSL Spring Series at Yeovil Town on Sunday 23 April (kick-off 2pm). The first home game takes place against Reading FC Women at the Select Security Stadium in Widnes on Friday 28 (7pm). The Spring Series is a one-off competition designed to bridge the gap before the FA WSL season aligns with the traditional football season for 2017/18. Season passes are available from sales.webticketmanager.com. Before all that, the Reds are targeting a place at Wembley when they visit Man City in the semi-final of the SSE Women's FA Cup on Monday 17 April.



Birthdays and anniversaries



Nathaniel Clyne 26 on 5 April
Fernando Morientes 41 on 5 April
Tommy Smith 72 on 5 April
Robbie Fowler 42 on 9 April
Sadio Mane 25 on 10 April
Ian Callaghan 75 on 10 April
Marko Grujic 21 on 13 April
Albert Riera 35 on 15 April
Paul Jones 50 on 18 April
Milan Jovanovic 36 on 18 April
Divock Origi 22 on 18 April
Steve Finnan 41 on 20 April

12 years since the Champions League victory over Juventus at Anfield on 5 April 2015.
16 years since the Reds beat Barcelona in the UEFA Cup semi-final on 19 April 2001.
28 years since 96 fans lost their lives at Hillsborough on 15 April 1989.
29 years since that famous 5-0 win over Nottingham Forest on 13 April 1988.
40 years since the Reds reached their first European Cup final on 20 April 1977.
53 years since a 5-0 defeat of Arsenal secured the Division One title in 1964.



Milner's cross, Lovren's header

It's 12 months – can you believe it – since that incredible Anfield night against Borussia Dortmund on 14 April 2016.

Jürgen Klopp's new team took on his old side armed with an away-goal from the 1-1 draw in the first leg in Germany. The ground was buzzing before kick-off with a rousing rendition of *You'll Never Walk Alone* ringing out across all four sides of the ground as both sets of supporters found their full voice.

After nine minutes it was the fans in yellow-and-black who had plenty to sing about as strikes from Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang had put Dortmund in control. A goal soon after the break from Divock Origi ignited hope but Marco Reus restored the two-goal advantage and Liverpool's Europa League run seemed to be over.

Philippe Coutinho and Mamadou Sakho had other ideas, making the score 3-3 and reducing Dortmund's advantage to away-goals only. Then, in added-time, James Milner sent over a cross and Dejan Lovren powered home a header at the Kop end to send Anfield rocking and Liverpool into the semi-finals.

FIXTURES 2016/2017

AUGUST

Date	Opponent	Score
Sun 14	Arsenal (A)	4-3
Sat 20	Burnley (A)	0-2
Tue 23	Burton (A, EFL2)	5-0
Sat 27	Tottenham H (A)	1-1

SEPTEMBER

Date	Opponent	Score
Sat 10	Leicester City (H)	4-1
Fri 16	Chelsea (A)	2-1
Tue 20	Derby (A, EFL3)	3-0
Sat 24	Hull City (H)	5-1

OCTOBER

Date	Opponent	Score
Sat 1	Swansea City (A)	2-1
Mon 17	Manchester Utd (H)	0-0
Sat 22	West Brom (H)	2-1
Tue 25	Tottenham (H, EFL4)	2-1
Sat 29	Crystal Palace (A)	4-2

NOVEMBER

Date	Opponent	Score
Sun 6	Watford (H)	6-1
Sat 19	Southampton (A)	0-0
Sat 26	Sunderland (H)	2-0
Tue 29	Leeds Utd (H, EFL5)	2-0

DECEMBER

Date	Opponent	Score
Sun 4	Bournemouth (A)	3-4
Sun 11	West Ham United (H)	2-2
Wed 14	Middlesbrough (A)	3-0
Mon 19	Everton (A, 8pm)	1-0
Tue 27	Stoke City (H)	4-1
Sat 31	Man City (H)	1-0

JANUARY

Date	Opponent	Score
Mon 2	Sunderland (A)	2-2
Sun 8	Plymouth (H, FAC3)	0-0
Wed 11	Southampton (A, EFL SF 1L)	0-1
Sun 15	Manchester Utd (A)	1-1
Sun 8	Plymouth (H, FAC3)	1-0
Sat 21	Swansea City (H)	2-3
Wed 25	Southampton (H, EFL SF 2L)	0-1
Sat 28	Wolves (H, FAC4)	1-2
Tue 31	Chelsea (H)	1-1

FEBRUARY

Date	Opponent	Score
Sat 4	Hull City (A)	0-2
Sat 11	Tottenham Hotspur (H)	2-0
Mon 27	Leicester City (A)	1-3

MARCH

Date	Opponent	Score
Sat 4	Arsenal (H)	3-1
Sun 12	Burnley (H)	2-1
Sun 19	Manchester City (A)	1-1

APRIL

Date	Opponent	Score
Sat 1	Everton (H)	3-1
Wed 5	Bournemouth (H)	
Sat 8	Stoke City (A, 3pm)	
Sun 16	West Brom (A, 1.30pm)	
Sun 23	Crystal Palace (H, 4.30pm)	

MAY

Date	Opponent	Score
Mon 1	Watford (A, 8pm)	
Sun 7	Southampton (H, 1.30pm)	
Sat 13	West Ham United (A, 3pm)	
Sun 21	Middlesbrough (H, 3pm)	

(LFC score shown first, all dates/KO times subject to change)


L.F.C.
BETVICTOR

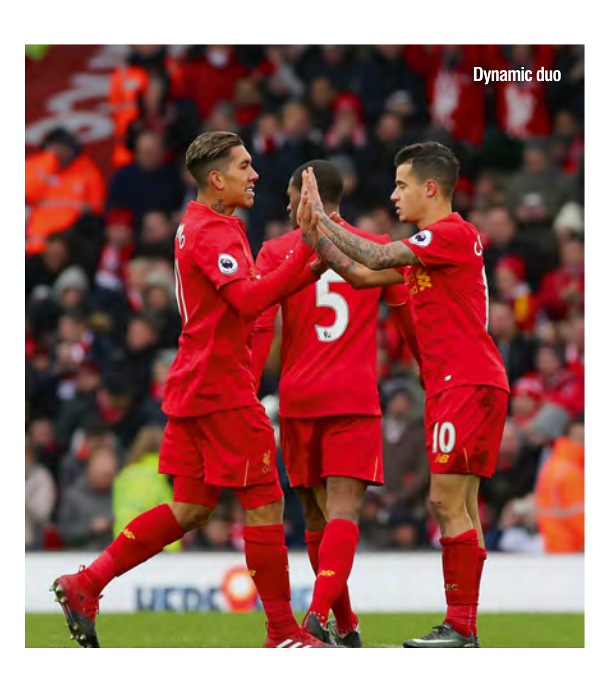
Goalscoring midfielders: Philippe Coutinho, Georginio Wijnaldum, Xabi Alonso and Terry McDermott...they're all here!

The home dressing-room at Anfield is the sanctuary of the Reds on matchdays. Which first-team player was first to leave the new-look changing room as LFC captain?
Answer on p98



"ME AND BOBBY LOVE BRINGING A BIT OF BRAZIL TO LIVERPOOL!"

Philippe Coutinho on Anfield's Latin American atmosphere and his hopes and dreams with LFC


Dynamic duo

You've been called 'the Brazilian magician' – does that put added pressure on you?
No, not at all. If anything, I'm really happy to receive the affection the fans show me and the other players. I think it gives us more confidence. When the fans get behind you, they're encouraging you to play well. This gives you confidence. As a player, you have to be relaxed and happy when you're out on the pitch playing, so knowing they are behind you always helps.

What did it mean to win the 2016 Samba Gold award for being the best Brazilian player in Europe?
An awful lot. I was really happy to be awarded that prize. It gives me great happiness and motivation to be considered alongside such great players as have won that trophy in the past. It gives me the confidence to carry on working hard to get better every day, to keep on developing and, of course, to keep learning. And, hopefully, to carry on giving the fans plenty of reasons to smile.

You've been playing as part of a front three alongside Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane of late – what's it like linking up with them?
I think that Roberto and Sadio are great players. And it isn't just them either: before his injury Adam Lallana had been having an excellent season too and chipped in with some important goals and assists. They're







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all great players and playing alongside guys who are as intelligent, athletic and talented as them is a real joy. Even in training, you can see that everything clicks naturally between us.

Your partnership with Firmino transfers to the national team too...

Of course. Firmino is a clever player. He makes those diagonal runs that are so important to our play at Liverpool. He's always available to receive the ball on his own up there and, even if he doesn't get a chance on goal for himself, he helps to create opportunities for us.

We're playing together here and we know each other well, so when we're playing for Brazil, we're already familiar with each other's movement. Whenever we get the chance to play or train together it's great that we already have that understanding.

You sent another of your Brazil team-mates, Neymar, a message after Barcelona's Champions League comeback against Paris St Germain...

I just wanted to congratulate him because he played unbelievably well, as he always does. It was not just him but Suarez and the whole team. What Barcelona did that night was incredible, they really made history. To turn around a 4-0 deficit against PSG, who are one of the biggest clubs in the world, is no mean feat. What they did has gone down in history, so they deserve to be congratulated.

Neymar showed a cool head to take that penalty in those final moments under all that pressure...

Of course. There was so much pressure. Everyone was just hanging on to that bit of hope. You can imagine all the Barcelona fans, everyone just hoping for a result, and then to win a penalty in the last few minutes, to leave yourselves just needing one more goal… Really, there was so much pressure on it but he didn't show it at all.

What's it like to be part of the Brazilian contingent at Anfield?

Since I arrived at the club it's been very important. It was important to have Lucas here at the time I first came here, as he speaks the same language as me. He's been at Liverpool 10 years and he'd already been here six or seven years when I joined and he knows the city very well so yes, it's very important that we've got a group of Brazilians here and that we can speak our language to each other. That makes it very good.

We bring a little bit of Brazil to Liverpool. At home I eat Brazilian foods. I have friends who come over to visit me and they bring things for me: typical foods from Brazil. And of course we've also got very good Brazilian restaurants in this city as well. I enjoy listening to Brazilian music too, although Roberto is much more the music man. He's the guy who tends to put the music on, but we also have a lot of Spanish music too.

You've got a great rapport with Roberto – how would you describe your friendship?

Roberto is a great guy. He has a lot of quality on the ball, and is physically very strong too. He's not as tall as other forwards, but you can see that he's very strong. He's really important for us. His movement creates space for others, and for him too. That's very important to the way we play.

The pair of you teamed up to take on Jürgen Klopp in a table-tennis challenge at Melwood to celebrate Chinese New Year...

We let the boss win! You could see how competitive he is from that video. He's a very hard-working guy who demands a lot from us on the pitch, but he also understands us as players. When we're suffering a bit of fatigue, he handles it well. And he's very approachable for everyone, from the

BRAZILIAN SCORERS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE



29 Juninho
(Middlesbrough)



28 Coutinho
(Liverpool)



21 Oscar
(Chelsea)



19 Firmino
(Liverpool)



17 Ramires
(Chelsea)



17 Gilberto Silva
(Arsenal)



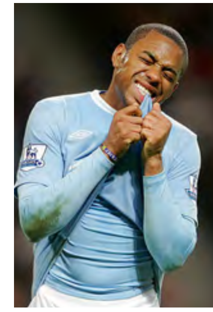
17 Willian
(Chelsea)



14 Geovanni
(Manchester City, Hull City)



14 Elano
(Manchester City)



14 Robinho
(Manchester City)

Up to and including 1 April 2017



veterans in the team to the youngest players. His door is always open for a chat, which has been important for our group.

Of course, he's a great coach too. All the players are really happy to work with him. He demands a lot from us, a lot of discipline. On the pitch he lets us play our game. We don't have fixed positions when we're going forward, but everyone is responsible for getting back into the correct positions to defend when we don't have the ball.

Talking of positions, what is your preferred role?

It's hard to say. The best position is just being out on the pitch, involved in the play, on the attack. Other than that, I don't really have a favourite position. I just go out to play.

Having been at Liverpool for four years now, how have you adjusted to such a physical league?

It really is intense here but it's not all about being strong physically. You have to be in the right shape to be able to keep going for 90 minutes. It's a much more intense game in England as the ball is almost always in play. I think what's more important than being strong or muscular is to be in good shape to be able to keep going for 90 minutes.

The team had a great start to the season but then things changed in January and February; can you put your finger on why?

It's true that we started the season well. We built up a good run of results, particularly at home, and we were playing really well. Then came January, February, and we went through a difficult patch. I genuinely couldn't tell you why. Then again, it's always hard to maintain the same levels of consistency throughout a whole season. But I think that we're still fighting for our main aim from the start of the season which was to finish in the top four.

We're in the shake-up for the Champions League places with a few other teams, and that's what we'll be fighting for until the end.

"IT'S GREAT TO HAVE A GROUP OF BRAZILIANS HERE; WE CAN SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE TOGETHER"

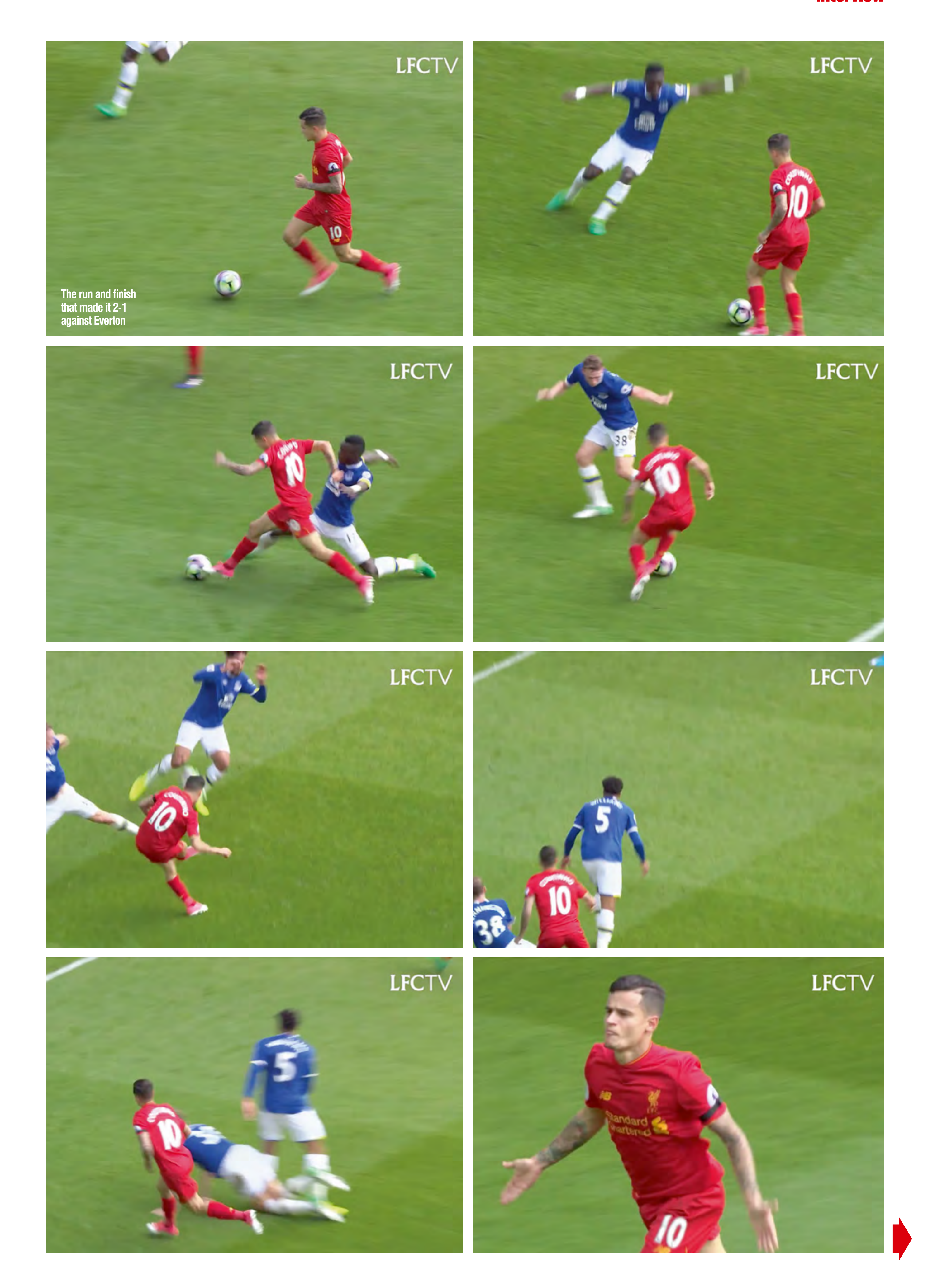
How important is it for Liverpool to secure Champions League football again?

Very important. Qualifying for next year's Champions League has always been our aim. It's really important for us all to be playing in the Champions League, that goes for every player and for the club as a whole. And right now we're in the top four. It's really tight with six or seven clubs competing for it but we're going to keep fighting to the end to make sure we qualify.

Supporters will wonder why the team is unbeaten against the top six and yet



Philippe enjoys playing in the same team as Roberto Firmino



The run and finish that made it 2-1 against Everton

have struggled against teams at the opposite end of the table...

I don't know what to say! We suffered a few defeats that knocked us off track. We were battling for the top spot but then, obviously, defeats like those knocked us off course a bit. But the important thing is that I would like to think that we have learned from those experiences, and hopefully now we're going to start games better. Sometimes we started games too slowly. And when you concede a goal or two early on in the Premier League, it's always an uphill battle from there.

I believe that as a team we've learned from those experiences, and I hope that we'll get out of the blocks more quickly and more confidently in the sort of games where we've slipped up before.

You were playing some fine football before you got injured in the home game v Sunderland; how frustrating was it to pick up that injury when you did?

The injury came at the end of November which was really frustrating because we'd been playing well as a team. I'd had some good games, both for club and country, and started to get on a good run. I picked up the injury and it was not a straightforward one, which was tough. When you're playing well and then have an injury, it's really hard. It's even worse with an ankle injury like the one I had, because it isn't an easy injury to manage because it affects a joint.

It was also difficult to accept because your mind doesn't stop and things keep running through your head. But thankfully I recovered well. We tried a few types of treatment. It all worked in the end, and now I'm fine with no pain. I stayed positive and I returned within the timeframe for the treatment. At the moment I feel great again. Now it's all about improving, building my confidence levels back up, playing better and hopefully reaching those levels of earlier in the season again.

"I LOOK AROUND AND SEE A LOT OF AMBITION HERE AND PLAYERS STRIVING FOR SUCCESS"

You signed a new long-term contract with Liverpool Football Club recently which was great news for Reds supporters – what convinced you to commit your future to the club?

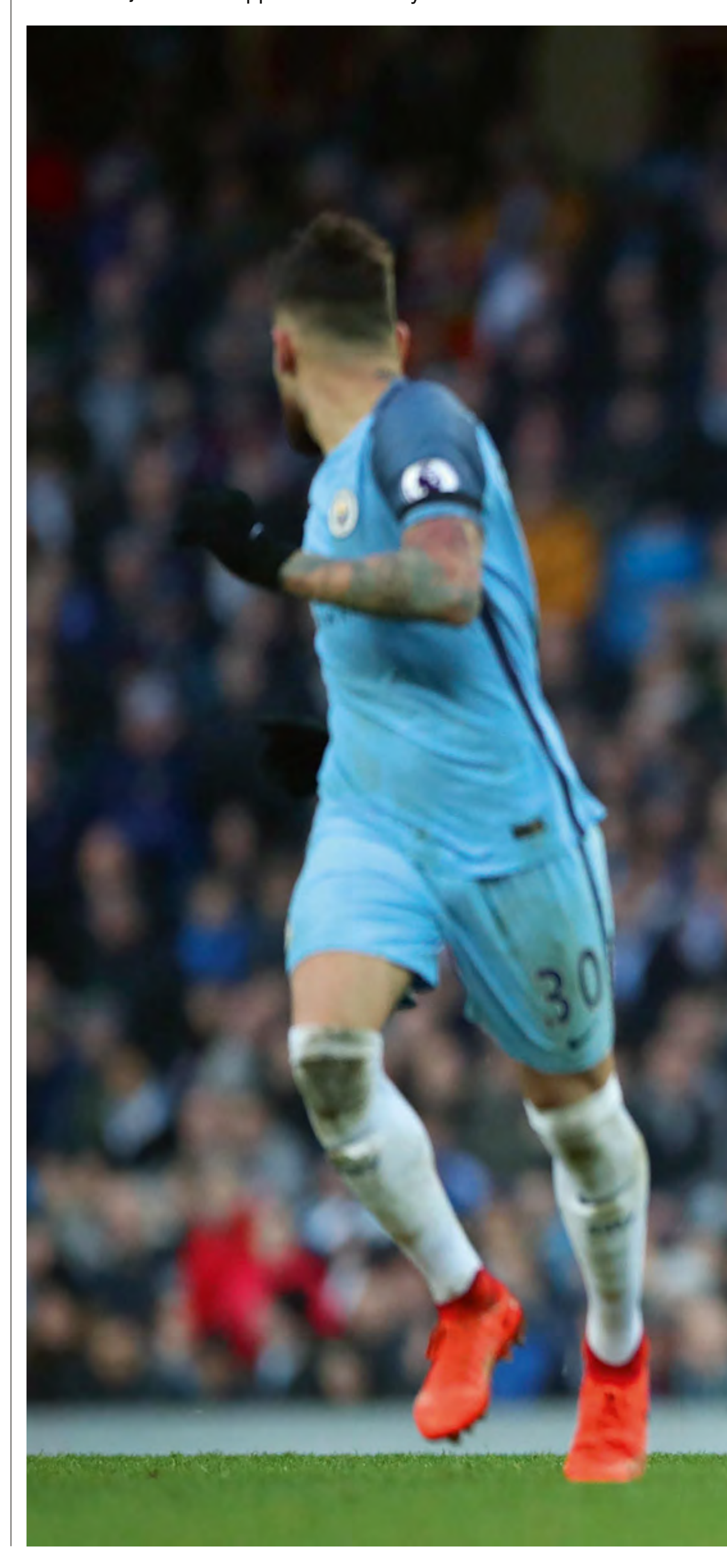
First and foremost Liverpool is a great football club. So it represents the opportunity for me to play at a great club and also to work with a great coach in Jürgen Klopp and great players. When I first arrived here, I received a great welcome from all the supporters and everyone at the club

ON GERRARD AND SUAREZ

"I feel honoured to have been able to play with Steven Gerrard at Liverpool. I never imagined that I'd play alongside him. When I was young and I used to watch the television I always saw what a great player he was so I feel privileged to have managed to play alongside him. The same was the case with Luis Suarez too."



Driving hard at Manchester City



which is something I will never forget.

When I look around, I see a lot of ambition at the club and players who are striving for success. The fans, the players and the coach all have one big ambition: to win silverware.

This was definitely one of the main reasons [behind signing the contract]. People started talking about the contract in the middle of the season, when we were already focused on the football. I was never thinking about moving on. Having this opportunity to stay longer at Liverpool means a lot to me.

On matchdays at Anfield you see so many shirts and scarves with your name and number – does that make you even more determined to win trophies here?

Of course. When I walk down the street and I see a kid, a young Liverpool fan, wearing my shirt, it brings me a lot of happiness and pride. It just increases my motivation to play better, to put a smile on the fans' faces, to win titles and to make history.


Boss instructions



The Spanish maestro's best bits in the red (mostly) jersey. You're welcome

20 GREAT XABI ALONSO MOMENTS

Xabi Alonso brings down the curtain on a glittering career when he retires this summer, so what better way to mark the end of the 35-year-old Bayern Munich midfielder's playing days than by recalling 20 of his finest moments in a Liverpool FC shirt?

But before we get stuck into that, here's a reminder of what Xabi said previously about how his love for Liverpool will never fade despite it now being eight years since he was running the Reds midfield with such panache and power…

"I am still a Liverpool fan and will be forever, absolutely. The things that I have lived and the experiences I had during those five years are deep in my heart and the passion and respect I had for the club and its supporters are still the same. Hopefully I can transmit to my son [Jon] what Liverpool Football Club means and how special it is, as he was born in the city."

Okay, enjoy…



1 Pass master

September 2004, a little less than a month after arriving from Real Sociedad, Xabi Alonso made his first Anfield start in a 3-0 Premier League win over Norwich City. Milan Baros, Luis Garcia and Djibril Cisse got the goals, but it was Alonso whom every Kopite was talking about at full-time.

Sat in the 'quarter-back' position at the base of the midfield, he effortlessly sprayed accurate diagonal passes around like Jan Molby in his pomp, drawing awe-struck gasps of admiration followed by ripples of applause. Sometimes you know straightaway when you've got a class player in your team. Anfield knew that day that Xabi Alonso was something special.

2 Fulham free-kick

Liverpool were two down at Fulham when Rafael Benitez replaced Salif Diao with Alonso at half-time. Xabi not only ran the midfield but after a Zat Knight own-goal and Milan Baros effort had levelled matters, he curled home a brilliant free-kick from 25 yards out to put Liverpool 3-2 up. It was his first goal in a red shirt.

"Alonsoooooooo!" cried commentator John Motson. "Oh what an impact he's made in the second half!" Igor Biscan got the fourth in a 4-2 win on the afternoon when *Ring of Fire* first took off among travelling Kopites in the Craven Cottage away-end.



3 Anfield first

Neil Mellor made the headlines for his late winner, but when Liverpool beat Arsenal 2-1 in November 2004 it was also the day that Alonso netted the first of his eight Anfield goals. What a cracker it was. Harry Kewell nodded Steve Finnan's pass to Steven Gerrard, whose sublime sideways invited Xabi, as Ashley Cole dived in to challenge, to hit a first-time side-footed effort from the edge of the box that whistled past Jens Lehmann into the net.













4 Terrific in the cauldron of Turin

Six players were sent off for fouls on Alonso during his Liverpool career. How Chelsea's Frank Lampard remained on the pitch after an ankle-breaking challenge on the Spaniard on New Year's Day 2005 remains a mystery, but it put Alonso out for three-and-a-half months.

Come April, and the second leg of the Champions League quarter-final away to Juventus, Rafa needed him back to partner Igor Biscan in central midfield with Steven Gerrard and Didi Hamann both injured. Despite a lack of match fitness, Xabi pulled his boots back on and was part of a magnificent defensive effort that limited Juve to just two chances all night. He also sent Milan Baros clean through with a clever pass and, although the Czech missed, a 0-0 draw was enough to sent the Reds into the semi-final 2-1 on aggregate.



5 Eidur down

Three minutes before the end of the 2005 Champions League semi-final first leg against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, Eidur Gudjohnsen went down under a challenge from Alonso, despite there being no contact. French referee Alain Sars saw it differently and flashed a yellow card in Alonso's direction. It ruled him out of the second leg at Anfield, which Xabi watched from the stands. Of course the full-time celebrations are goosebump-inducing memories, and Xabi was on the pitch in his trainers and jeans to enjoy them with his team-mates.

6 Catching out Kaka

'Attention to detail' was a phrase Rafa Benitez used a lot when he was Liverpool manager and during the 2005 Champions League final in Istanbul, Alonso showed just how costly the smallest lapse in concentration can be.

Just moments after Steven Gerrard had headed the Reds back into the game, Liverpool won a throw-in on the left wing. Receiving the ball from John Arne Riise, Xabi spotted that Kaka was fixing a loose sock-tie instead of marking Didi Hamann and quickly shifted the ball to the German. Hamann immediately moved it on to Vladimir Smicer, who surprised everybody by blasting a low right-footed effort into the bottom corner to make it 3-2. Liverpool's comeback was well and truly on with Alonso's quick-thinking playing a part.







7 Comeback kings

Never taken a penalty for Liverpool before? How about taking your first to try to make it 3-3 in the Champions League final? The only Liverpool player on the pitch at the time who had scored a penalty all season was Milan Baros – Steven Gerrard had missed his only attempt against Spurs – and with Benitez happy to rotate his spot-kick-takers it was Alonso who took on the responsibility.

He missed – Milan's Dida diving to his right to save – but got to the rebound first to smash the ball into the net. Get in!







8 Sunderland settler

Routine one-nil home-wins over Sunderland aren't necessarily the most memorable when you became champions of Europe three months earlier. But it was thanks to a brilliant Alonso free-kick that the Reds won their first Anfield Premier League game since bringing the European Cup home for keeps. Twenty-five yards from goal in a central position, Xabi stepped up and curled one towards the top bin that Black Cats keeper Kelvin Davis got a fingertip too but couldn't keep out, for his first goal from a direct free-kick at Anfield.





9 Half-volleyed home versus Aston Villa

If ever you watch the YouTube video of Alonso's 19 Liverpool goals – and what else were smartphones invented for? – then you'll notice a high proportion of the Basque midfielder's strikes are first-time venomous efforts from the edge of the box.

His 89th-minute finish to complete a 2-0 win at Aston Villa in November 2005 is one of the best. Peter Crouch had an effort blocked at close-range and when the ball rebounded out to Alonso it was rising at pace. A player with less technique would've smashed it over, but Xabi got his head over the ball and kept his fierce half-volley so low that it went underneath keeper Thomas Sorensen before he could blink.



10 Creative genius

Making goals with his exquisite range of passing was Alonso's forte and if one match epitomised his brilliance on the ball more than any other it was a 2-0 win at Sunderland in November 2005. Xabi made both goals, one with either foot, and the first was truly sensational. The ball bounced to Alonso while he was facing his own goal in his own half, but in one movement he swivelled and played a 30-yard left-footed pass on the half-volley that took out the entire Sunderland defence to send Luis Garcia clean through to slot past Ben Alnwick.

Fifteen minutes later he chipped another 30-yarder, this time with his right foot, to send Steven Gerrard clear and the skipper nicked the ball past Alnwick.

11 Mad Hatters

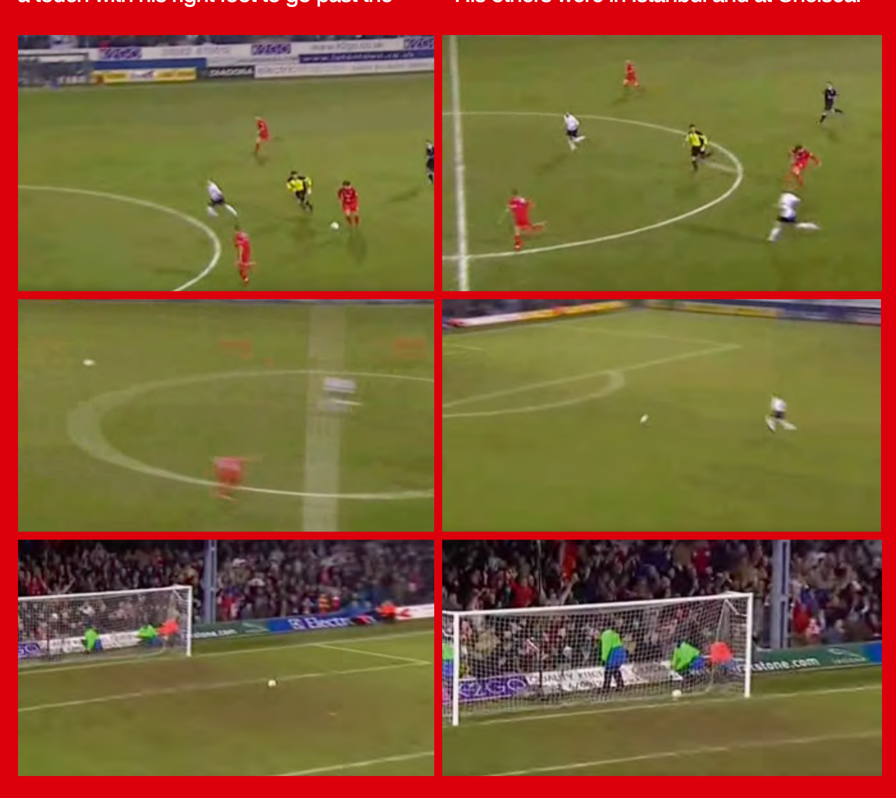
Luton Town 3 Liverpool 5. A ridiculous scoreline from a ridiculous FA Cup third-round tie at Kenliworth Road in January 2006 when Championship team Luton led European champions Liverpool 3-1 only for Xabi Alonso to score two ridiculous goals in another ridiculously good comeback. His first came in the 68th minute, to make it 3-3, from 40 yards – which was close-range compared to his second!

After controlling a loose header in midfield he took a touch and, as a challenge flew in, unleashed a looping, dipping howitzer of a shot that beat Hatters keeper Marlon Beresford all ends up and crashed into the net. It could've been goal of the season, but it wasn't even his most memorable goal that afternoon (eyes right)...



12 Xabi A-long shot

With Liverpool 4-3 up and the game into stoppage-time, the Hatters threw everything at Rafa's men. But when John Arne Riise cleared a cross, Luton keeper Beresford, who'd gone forward, found himself stranded in the Liverpool half as Alonso brought the ball down. He took a touch with his right foot to go past the goalie but instead of passing to Steven Gerrard in acres of space, Xabi looked up and struck a left-footed shot from outside of the centre-circle. The ball took four bounces and rolled into the empty net. There is no record of a Liverpool player having scored from further out – and it was one of three left-footed goals Alonso scored for the Reds. His others were in Istanbul and at Chelsea.



13 Haway the Xab

Not many players score one career goal from in their own half; even fewer do it twice. But have you ever heard of a player who scored consecutive goals for his club from inside his own half and did so using different feet? Us neither, making Alonso unique.

His victim this time, in September 2006 at Anfield, was Newcastle United keeper Steve Harper. Xabi won the ball himself from Charles N'Zogbia in the Newcastle half, cut inside referee Mark Halsey, who was blocking his path, took one look up and, spotting Harper off his line at the Kop-end, shot at goal. Harper was in trouble and slipped as he tried to scramble back, leaving him lying in his six-yard box and flapping with a desperately outstretched left hand as the ball sailed past him and bounced into the net. If there's been a goal scored from further out in Anfield history, we've never seen it.



14 Wat-a-goal

Oh he is a midfield maestro, and his passing's so delightful, everyone wants to know, Alonso, Alonso, Alonso…

The tune Let It Snow wasn't the only one Kopites adapted for Xabi, but it's the one that springs to mind when you look back at his 25-yard strike in a 2-0 Anfield victory against Watford a couple of days before Christmas in 2006. Dirk Kuyt played a sideways pass into Alonso's path and using his instep he curled a first-time effort that Ben Foster dived full-length to touch, but not keep out, for his eleventh LFC goal.



15 Impact sub

Rested for the final Premier League game of 2006/07 against Charlton Athletic with the Champions League final in Athens in mind, Xabi was summoned from the bench in the 61st minute with a lacklustre Liverpool a goal behind to the soon-to-be-relegated Addicks. Within a minute he'd made it 1-1 after arriving late in the box to half-volley the ball into the turf, and then the net, from Dirk Kuyt's knockdown. It was one of three Alonso goals scored after coming on from the bench and one of the quickest netted by a Liverpool substitute in a league game.



16 County curler

Liverpool went top of the Premier League on a glorious September afternoon in 2007 with a thumping 6-0 win against Derby County and for the only time at Anfield, Alonso scored twice. Naturally, one of his goals was from at least thirty yards out, although he didn't mean it. Curling a free-kick in from the left towards Dirk Kuyt, the Spaniard put so much whip on the ball that when everyone missed it County keeper Stephen Bywater couldn't react quickly enough and the ball bounced under his left glove and into the Annie Road-end net to prize the floodgates open.



17 Precision personified

Liverpool's fourth of six against Derby County was another Alonso effort, this time at the Kop-end, and was hit with typical first-time precision. Yossi Benayoun was denied an opportunity to shoot by a Jay McEveley challenge but the Scouse left-back only directed the ball towards Alonso. As it rolled towards him Xabi shaped like a golfer about to chip onto the 18th at Royal Birkdale and guided the ball into the bottom corner with his instep. What nobody knew at the time was this would be his last Liverpool goal at Anfield so it was somewhat appropriate that he scored it with a pass as few men have distributed the ball as sublimely in front of the Kop as Xabi Alonso did.



19 Spot on

Steven Gerrard scored five hat-tricks for Liverpool. He would've probably had a sixth had Rafa Benitez not brought him off in the 70th minute of a fantastic 5-1 win at Newcastle in December 2008. The Reds skipper had already scored twice to help his side into a 4-1 lead when David Ngog was brought down in the box, but with Gerrard off the pitch it was Alonso, a sub himself, who picked up the ball and placed it to Shay Given's left to score Liverpool's fifth. Xabi converted four penalties in total for the Reds: three away from home and one at Anfield in the 2007 Champions League semi-final shootout win against Chelsea.

18 London Bridge is falling down

Easily the scruffiest of his LFC goals, Alonso's strike at Stamford Bridge in October 2008 was taken off him by the Premier League's 'dubious goals panel' who instead marked it down as a Jose Bosingwa own-goal, but Liverpool Football Club ruled that their verdict was dubious and the goal remains Xabi's in the Reds' record books.

He'll be pleased with that as his 10th-minute left-footed strike, which took a nick off Bosingwa's chest, proved to be the goal that condemned Chelsea to their first home defeat since February 2004, ending an 86-game unbeaten record at the Bridge. Xabi also scored a penalty in a 4-4 Champions League draw at Chelsea later that season.



20 Hull of a last goal

Liverpool were still in the Premier League title race when visiting Hull City in April 2009 and with the game deadlocked on the stroke of half-time, Alonso stepped up to take a free-kick. He hit it straight into the home side's wall, but as ironic cheers from the Hull support began to ring out, the ball rebounded to Xabi and on the half-volley and he lashed a fizzing shot past helpless Tigers keeper Boaz Myhill.

It was his 19th and final goal in a red shirt, in what was the 207th of his 210 games for Liverpool, and completed a spectacular collection of strikes. He'll also retire this summer having scored more goals for the Reds than any of his other clubs: Real Sociedad ten, Real Madrid six, Bayern Munich nine so far.


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Deep below Anfield's expanded Main Stand, Jürgen Klopp and his Liverpool squad arrive at the new players' entrance ahead of a Saturday-evening clash with Arsene Wenger's Gunners. Hundreds of Liverpool fans on Anfield Road welcome the boys as they travel aboard our new red first-team coach which has 'We Are Liverpool' emblazoned on both sides.

AT THE MATCH.

Roving photographer Nick Taylor captures the Anfield experience during the home game against Arsenal



Every other Saturday's me half day off and it's off to the match I go... As kick-off draws closer a steady stream of Reds stroll across Stanley Park, the anticipation, excitement and expectation growing with every step closer to Anfield. There's nothing quite like a brisk walk to the ground on matchdays as thoughts of goals and glory fill your mind. C'mon!


liverpoolfc.com
irizar
YN66 VYC



Matchball on the podium. Flags and banners on the Kop. Players on the pitch warming up. Not long now. The first glimpse of the glimmering green Anfield pitch as you emerge from the concourse is always special, particularly when the floodlights are on. As Bill Shankly once put it: "Look at that grass boys, it's great grass, it's professional grass."


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This is Anfield. This is our Main Stand. This is the moment when the Liverpool and Arsenal players line up before kick-off to sportingly shake hands after the Premier League anthem is played. Look closely and you'll see the press box to the left, the TV gantry in the centre and the directors' box below it, in the lower tier, on the halfway line. What a view!


When you walk through a storm, hold your head up high and don't be afraid of the dark… At the end of the storm there's a golden sky and the sweet silver song of the lark… Walk on through the wind, walk on through the rain, though your dreams be tossed and blown… Walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart, and you'll never walk alone – you'll never walk alone!
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ARSENAL
WITH YOU



Philippe Coutinho steps up to take a first-half corner where the Anfield Road end and Centenary Stands meet against one of the most awesome backdrops in world football. The Kop will always be Anfield's focal point, but the new Main Stand towers above it with the extra capacity now seeing crowds of over 53,000 on a regular basis. They also see LFC win regularly too!



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Nine mimutes on the clock, as Liverpool attack the Annie Road end, Adam Lallana slips the ball to Sadio Mane in space on the right. Quick as a flash he whips a low ball across goal to Roberto Firmino at the far post. Goooooooooooal! As they say in Brazil! Anfield erupts, smiles beam across faces, Bobby celebrates with his team-mates. 1-0. Up the Reds!
EMRE CAN
23
MATIP
32
MANÉ
19
5


COUTINHO
KLAVAN
17
FIRMINO
11
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL
FOOTBALL CLUB
EST·1892
LIVERPOOL FC 1 17:40
ARSENAL 0 10:59



While everybody else looks frozen as they watch – the Liverpool players in hope, the Arsenal players nervously – Sadio Mane already knows his 40th minute effort is about to hit the net. Created by Firmino, who picks Sadio out in space at the far post, he lashes the ball home and wheels away in celebration. Oh Mane-Mane der-der-der-der-der-der!


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GOAL!
DANNY WELBECK
ARSENAL
new balance
LIVERPOOL FC 2 18:44
ARSENAL 1 56:33



Nerves are jangling. Danny Welbeck's 57th-minute goal means it's game back on. Arsenal are hunting a stoppage-time equaliser. But Liverpool break. Lallana sends sub Divock Origi charging away down the right. Go 'ed Divock lad! He crosses. Wijnaldum is arriving late... Yeeeeeessssss!!! Get in there Gini! Liverpool 3 Arsenal 1. Game over. And what a big win it could be.



Jürgen Klopp strides onto the pitch at full-time to embrace his winning team and thank the Anfield faithful for their support. The Liverpool manager is a visible presence on the pitch after every game, no matter the result, but the smile is bigger when we win! A couple of lucky fans also got to take home match-worn shirts on what was a boss night to be a Red.




L.F.C.






GO
WIJNALDUM
5



WIJNALDUM: AL

Heading into April, midfielder Georginio Wijnaldum had scored five times at Anfield in his debut season with the Reds, and here the Dutchman talks us through each one...

WATFORD Sunday 6 November 2016

Gini breaks his Liverpool duck in the final minute of a 6-1 romp against the Hornets. After Daniel Sturridge's effort is pushed away by Watford's substitute goalkeeper Costel Pantilimon, he's there to control and convert with his left foot.

"It was a great feeling to score my first goal for Liverpool. I had been waiting for that moment a long, long time. I don't know how many games we had played to this point, about 13 or 14, and it was a new feeling for me because normally I score quite quickly into a new season. The way I play, my first goal of a season is usually in one of the first games so it was a bit of a feeling of 'finally!' when I was able to open my account.

"It was a great moment for me and extra-special for it to come in front of the Kop too, although to be fair I don't mind which end I score goals at. If I score goals to help my team I am really happy with it. I think you could see the relief in my celebration afterwards and the most beautiful thing was that my team-mates were also really happy for me that I had scored a goal, so I was really happy with that too.

"It was a left-footed goal and quite an easy one. I just had to control it and put it in – a bit of a present!"










MANCHESTER CITY
Saturday 31 December 2016

The New Year's Eve clash with City is only eight minutes old when Gini provides what proves to be the decisive moment, leaping above defender Aleksandar Kolarov to power a header past Claudio Bravo at the Anfield Road end.

"We regained the ball in our own half and it went to Roberto [Firmino] who showed great technical skill to play himself free and play the ball to [Adam] Lallana. To be honest, Lallana made that goal with his cross. It was an unbelievable cross into the right space at the right time because if he had crossed with his right foot it wouldn't have been an in-swinger and so it would have been much harder for me to put that much power behind the ball. But because it was an out-swinger, the only thing I had to do was head it on goal.

"It was a hard header – I managed to get good power on it – and it was great to see it go in. But, like I say, it was the cross of Lallana that made the goal so he deserves great credit for that one."



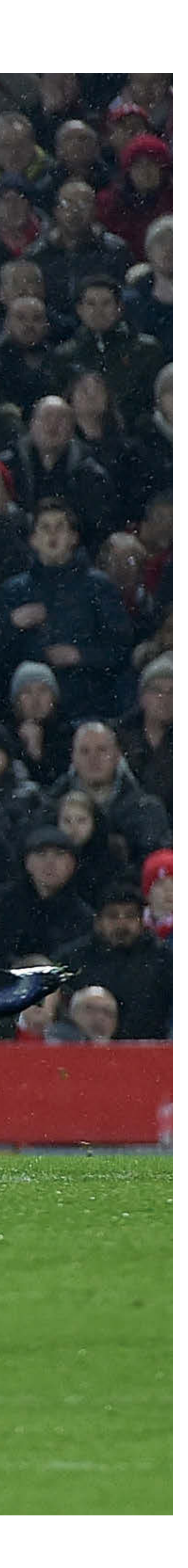


CHELSEA Tuesday 31 January 2017
Gini times his run into the box to perfection to get on the end of James Milner's deflected header back across goal to draw the Reds level with the Premier League pacesetters.

"I think the seeds for this goal were planted during the half-time interval. While we were in the dressing-room, the manager told me that I had to come more in front of the goal because I hadn't once done that in the first-half. So in the second-half I was focusing more on getting in front of the goal because I know that is a quality of mine and the manager wanted to see that.

"It was a cross from Hendo, Milly headed it back across goal and I was lucky that [Victor] Moses touched the ball and I was well-placed. I headed it into the ground as it was difficult because the ball was a little bit behind me, so I headed it hard because [Thibaut] Courtois was on the other side of his goal and it went in.

"There was a bit of luck that Moses touched the ball, otherwise I would have had to figure out whether it would've come into my path or not, but it was an important goal against an important opponent. The timing of your runs is always an important quality for a midfielder and that one worked out well."



ARSENAL Saturday 4 March 2017

A 90th-minute goal in front of the Kop as Gini seals a 3-1 win against the Gunners. The no5 sprints from the edge of his own box to the other as Adam Lallana's brilliant pass with the outside of his boot finds Divock Origi on the right flank and the Belgian's perfect cross is swept home by Gini as he arrives right on cue.

"When you think you can score a goal, it is always easy to find energy somewhere in your body to get forward – even in the 90th minute! I think it's harder to defend a ball like that than to score from it. When I saw that there was no-one in front of me and the ball go to Divock, I thought: now I'm going to sprint because this is an opportunity to score a goal.

"As I say, it is always easier to run forwards when you know you may be about to score a goal than when you have to track back and defend. There is something in your head that makes it easier in those kind of moments! I ran forward and it was a great cross from Divock. The only thing that I had to do was shoot on goal. Because the cross came from the right-side, I thought the goalkeeper would follow the ball, so if I played it back where it came from I would have a good chance of scoring. I was lucky that everything worked out how I wanted it to in my head.

"At 2-1 it was a little bit anxious but at that moment at 3-1 the game was finished and so it was a very important goal."



BURNLEY Sunday 12 March 2017

After flicking Divock Origi's cross towards goal, Gini steadies himself when the ball is blocked before calmly placing his shot beyond Burnley keeper Tom Heaton to bring the Reds level at 1-1 at half-time.

"I was lucky that after he [Ben Mee] blocked it, the ball came back in front of my foot. I wanted to shoot but I thought maybe he would touch it again. He didn't and I could see that the keeper had already started to move to his left-side as he reacted to my body-shape. So I shot straight and I suppose I was quite cool in that situation. I was able to look at the keeper and react to what he did, and thankfully I scored the goal.

"You can snatch at those chances, but to be fair the first thing was that the defender wasn't able to clear the ball away. The ball bounced in front of me and I thought: okay, now you have to stay easy to make the right choice.

"It was an important goal because there is such a big difference going in at half-time at 1-1 than at 1-0 down. If you go in losing, you think: we conceded a goal, we have to do this better or that better. You still have those thoughts but then you are thinking: okay it's 1-1, we have scored and we can now make another one to go ahead and hopefully win the game. You go into half-time with a different feeling. It didn't matter who scored the goal but it was important that we had a good feeling to continue the game.

"It was my third goal in four Premier League games at Anfield so I am on a bit of a scoring streak, so I hope I can continue it until the end of the season. It will be wonderful if I can."



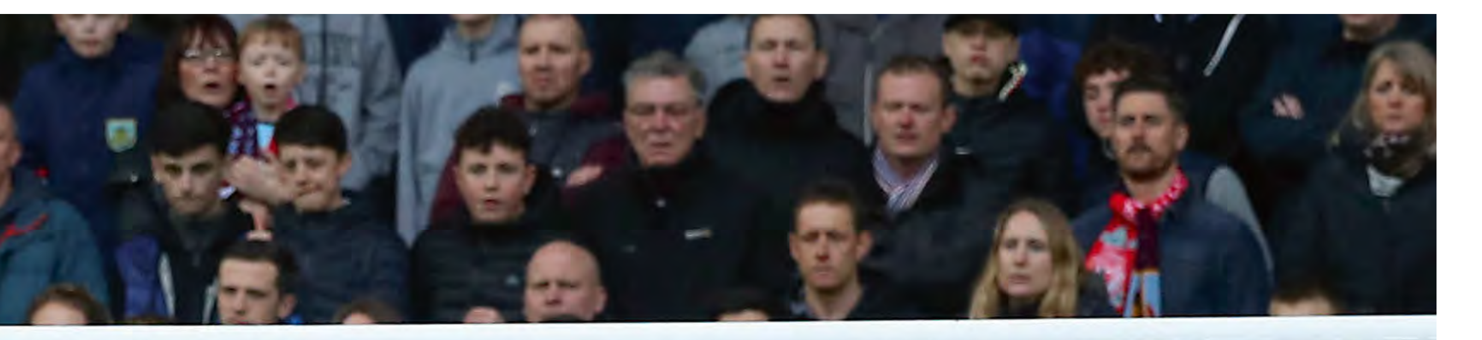
Getting those goals from midfield

"In any team it is always good to have players and especially midfielders who can score goals because while strikers will often score goals they can also have a bad day when they just can't find the net," says Gini.

"If you only can win when the strikers score goals, there are going to be days when it is going to be hard because if they don't score goals, you don't win games obviously. The most important thing is that you have a lot of players all over the pitch who can score goals instead of just two or three because that makes it easier to pick up three points.

"At Liverpool we have a number of players throughout the team who can score so we don't always have to depend on just two or three."





Interview: William Hughes

TERRY



Terry McDermott. Kid from Kirkby turned multiple European Cup winner. Scorer of arguably Anfield's most famous-ever goal against Tottenham Hotspur in 1978. Partial to a pint in the pub and a punt on the horses. He lived the dream on the pitch, and quite a life off it!

Back in 1962, when Bill Shankly's Liverpool won promotion from the Second Division with a 2-0 win against Southampton, Terry Mac was one of the kids that ran onto the pitch to celebrate the Reds' return to top-flight football.

Fifteen years later he was on the pitch again in Rome when Liverpool won a first European Cup, except this time he'd scored the opening goal of a 3-1 win against Borussia Moenchengladbach. It was a remarkable turn of events for a lad who had been playing Fourth Division football for Bury just four years earlier before arriving at Anfield via Newcastle United.

Terry Mac went on to make 329 appearances for Liverpool, scored 81 goals, won four league titles, three European Cups, two League Cups, one UEFA Cup and was named as PFA Player of the Year and Football Writers Footballer of the Year in 1980. He also famously worked alongside Reds legends Kevin Keegan, Kenny Dalglish and Graeme Souness as assistant-manager in two spells at Newcastle United. Now he has penned his long-awaited autobiography.

"If I'm honest, I'd never really wanted to do a book," he admits in *Terry Mac: Living For The Moment*, written in collaboration with John Richardson and published by Sport Media. "People were always coming up to me and asking why I hadn't retold some of the football stories in print so that they could enjoy them. It's great to know they are finally out there."

Shortly before Christmas, Terry suffered a mini-stroke. An operation saved his life but put things into perspective. "I'm going to enjoy life even more and go to more places around the world, explore more. Instead of saying, 'we might do this and that', we will do it. I suppose an experience like this does make you look at life differently. I've been lucky, I know that."

So now Terry's life-story – which in truth is part football, part pub-crawl – is available to enjoy. It's a funny, sometimes self-depreciating and honestly written account of his days at



What a player, and what a new book he's just got out – here's just a taster from the midfield legend

MAC

Charity Shield goalscorer, 1980

Anfield and St James' Park that gives a new insight into dressing-room life and both clubs. And we've got a couple of exclusive tasters for you to enjoy.

May will mark the 40th anniversary of that first European Cup won by Liverpool and Terry recalls what it was like to play in such a historic game, the post-match party afterwards and what happened when Bob Paisley caught him playing a couple of cheeky pranks...



Rome 77

We were off to Rome to try and write club history as the first Liverpool side to win Europe's biggest prize. As soon as we arrived Bob Paisley famously announced, "If any of you want to go out for a walk, well, there's nothing to see because I've bloody well bombed it all." That was a reference to Bob having been involved in the Second World War in Italy with his tank division.

People ask me now what was my favourite Liverpool game? What was your favourite goal? I always say the 1977 European Cup final.

Borussia Moenchengladbach had a good team, players like Uli Stielike, Jupp Heynckes, Rainer Bonhof. Walking out into the Olympic Stadium sent a shiver down your spine – even an hour-and-a-half before kick-off. There was a sea of red and white all around the ground. The Moenchengladbach fans were squeezed into the corner, completely outnumbered by our fans. We had 35,000 supporters there – absolutely staggering.

When we saw the fans, we just knew we couldn't let them down. I'm convinced that was the inspiration for us to win the European Cup.

I scored first to give us the lead and, for my goal, Kevin Keegan took Berti Vogts away to the other side of the penalty area. It gave me approaching 20-yards of space to run into – something you don't normally get in top-class football. Berti should have been in the area trying to block the danger but he was so obsessed with trying to stick with Kevin, he was way out of position.

When Steve Heighway released the ball, I was in. I saw their keeper Wolfgang Knieb coming out. He must have been about 6ft 8in, a real giant. I just sensed this huge shadow zooming in on me and I thought: I'd better get rid of this before he gets any nearer. So I just hit it and it flew into the corner of the net. That was it, we were 1-0 up.

They came back and equalised through Allan Simonsen, a decent player who ended up at Charlton, but 12 minutes later it was 2-1 with an incredible header from Tommy Smith. It was Heighway's corner and Tommy met it beautifully and it soared into the net. He's never scored a better header. But it was Kevin's run to win the penalty which really sealed the victory.

Heighway slipped the ball to me and I found Kevin racing forward. I then burst to the right which meant one of the Borussia defenders came out with me. That left Kevin one-on-one with Vogts and there was only one winner, Kevin turning him and accelerating into the box. Vogts made the challenge and Kevin went crashing to the ground – penalty. Saying that, I honestly didn't think it was because I'm certain Vogts got a touch on the ball. To the naked eye it looked a penalty but in slow-motion Berti seemed a bit unlucky.

Phil Neal took the spot-kick. If he hadn't taken it then I would, because I went on to take a few for Liverpool although that would have been my first in a red shirt!

When he put it away, you could see Bob Paisley, Joe Fagan and Roy Evans celebrating in a big huddle. They thought the job had been done. The whistle went and that was it.

We had created history and I was part of it – just a few years after turning out for Bury in the Fourth Division.

As soon as we got back to the dressing-room, the celebrations started. Clem was singing and dancing again. Ronnie Moran – as usual – said: "That's it for this season, lads. It's what we do next season now that counts. Next season starts tomorrow."

Cheers, Ronnie!

At the hotel afterwards, a big banquet was laid on for us. We were going to have one, win or lose. We all got changed, came down and started celebrating with a few drinks, getting stuck into the food. There were a few fans knocking around so we invited them in and before you knew it the place was full of happy Liverpool supporters. They were like a plague of locusts. Within five minutes, all the food had disappeared.

The next morning, Kevin was going around with a black eye. The word got out that it was Jimmy Case who had left one on Kevin over a row about Kevin not having played well in the FA Cup final on the Saturday – that he hadn't tried. That was a load of b******s. It was Phil Neal who had actually caught him with his elbow. What had happened was some of the lads, including Kevin, had been messing around in the swimming-pool in the morning, trying to push each other in. Phil caught Kevin accidentally in the eye with his elbow and he was left with this shiner.

We left the hotel for the airport in the afternoon to fly home and the drinking started again on the plane. Soon plied with drink, I was on the plane's intercom and started taking off Bob Paisley with his North East lilt, his sayings and his mannerisms.

"Clem in goal, then doings and Joey and that…" I was saying, mimicking Bob announcing the team before the game.

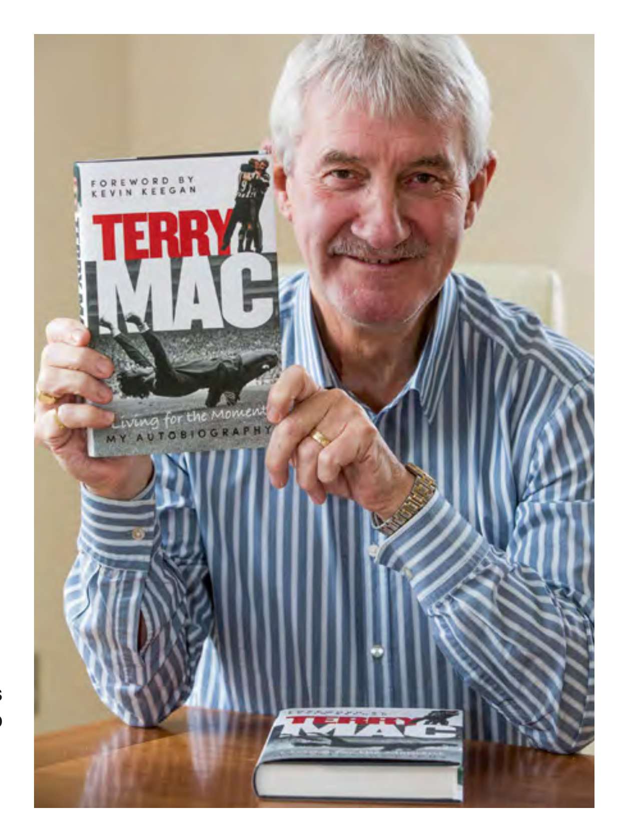
I had been sitting next to Alec Lindsay, who told me not to do it. But I wasn't bothered. I was told Bob had a little giggle. He wasn't bothered either. The press lads loved it too because they all knew about his sayings. They would try to take him off as well – but all in good humour. We all loved and admired him."

Bob Paisley

In the dressing-room, it's well-known that Bob Paisley delivered his message in an understated manner. He always said that he refused to scream and bawl at players because he believed that if you talk quietly and considerately, people will listen more intently. To be honest, at times, with his North East drawl, it was hard to pick up on what he was actually saying.

While he was telling you things he would often forget a name and so if he went through the opposition he would say, "Aye, watch out for him, that Charlie doin's an' that." There was so much respect for him, it was like listening to your favourite grandfather.

Every time he spoke, you listened. We were losing 1-0 to Spurs at half-time in the final of what was then known as the Milk Cup in 1982 and he told us, "You're turning the milk sour." We ended up winning it. Under Paisley, Liverpool won 19 trophies. It was unbelievable. Shanks laid the foundations and took it to a certain height, but Bob went even higher. You were going from Ben Nevis to Everest.



What Bob achieved as a manager will never be repeated anywhere, never mind at Liverpool. I know now we're in an era of high-profile managers but Bob was never that, despite what he achieved. He was humble, just a quiet man from a North East mining village.

We had our team meetings on a Friday when he would announce the team. Yet, with Bob, you never knew if you would be in it or not as his mannerisms never gave much away. He'd stand next to the treatment table



Scoring from the spot against Coventry City, 1982


Class of 1977: front row far right

in the dressing-room, which used to have a mini-pitch template laid out on it and he would start going through the side, pushing little magnetic counters here and there. You just had to wait your turn to see if you were in.

With Bob, though, it was never totally clear. "We'll have Jimmy and that one, and that, here," he'd start. "Then there's Phil here and David and that there." Sometimes we'd be confused as there were two Phils for a start – Phil Neal and Phil Thompson – and two Davids, Johnson and Fairclough!

Sometimes, the only confirmation was when you went into the dressing-room on matchday and found your boots under the peg where you would normally sit. You knew then you were playing!

Some of the advice was just as patchy. He would tell Jimmy Case, "Keep your high balls low" and he once warned Phil Thompson that his opposite number was "not quick, but he's nippy." What did that mean? We just knew what he was like and there was the utmost respect for him, despite his quirkiness.

We'd have a laugh privately and some of us would take him off, with his sayings, but we'd give everything for him on the pitch. He just did things in his own way. His record is there for everyone to see. Six League championships. Three European Cups. One UEFA Cup. Three League Cups. Six Charity Shields.

I never saw Bob lose his temper, although he could swear. One of his favourite sayings if you had done something wrong was: "You'll get the f*****g game done away with!"

One time, David Johnson and I were going back to our hotel rooms after a night out in London when we decided to have a fruit fight, taking aim at one another along the corridor with the apples, oranges and bananas which had been left in our rooms.

The next minute, one of the doors along the corridor opened and there was Bob in his pyjamas yelling, "What the hell are you playing at man? It's not a party. You'll get us bloody done." I didn't know whether to laugh at the sight of Bob in his pyjamas or worry about my future. To be fair, once Bob had let off a bit of steam, that was it.

Another time, I remember we were on a plane going on a trip abroad to the Middle East. We were mixed up with ordinary passengers and to help relieve the boredom, a few drinks were taken. In front of us was a bloke with a bald head. There's me, Jocky Hansen, Phil Thompson and Alan Kennedy and when our meals came we wondered whether we could put a pea on his head. We managed to do it. Then next came a carrot. It was Alan Kennedy's turn and he somehow placed a potato on the guy's nut.

By the end, he almost had a full dinner on his head but was still none the wiser. Suddenly, Bob Paisley realised what was going on from further down the plane and he got up from his seat shouting, "Bloody hell man, what are you doing?"


With team-mate Sammy Lee, 1980

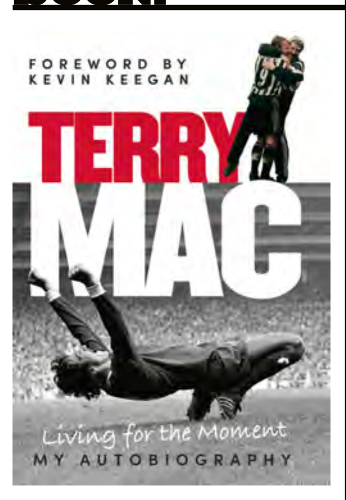
Luckily he couldn't get past Graeme Souness who was next to him. Graeme said he would sort it. All you could hear was Bob yelling, "Bloody hell man, they'll get us thrown off the plane!"

Although Bob was thought of as everyone's favourite granddad, he could be harsh and was prepared to move players on when he thought their time had come. Just before I left, Liverpool got rid of a few established players, including David Johnson.

'The Doc' could have signed a new two-year contract but at the time he wasn't playing regularly, so he asked Bob if he put pen to paper would he be playing in many games. Back came the reply, "I'll just use you when I need you." So he went. You just had to accept that was the way it was.

■ Terry Mac: Living For The Moment (RRP £18.99) is now available from official club stores or to order from **store.liverpoolfc.com**.

Win the book!



We've got five signed copies of Terry Mac: Living For the Moment to give away to five lucky readers. To be in with a chance of winning simply answer the following question and email it with your contact details to liverpoolfcmag@trinitymirror.com with Terry McDermott in the subject line.

On which ground did Terry score against Everton in the 1977 FA Cup semi-final? (a) Maine Road (b) Old Trafford (c) Villa Park

The closing date is 28 April 2017 and winners will be notified soon after. Usual competition rules apply.

■ Last month's Ronnie Moran book winners were: Steve Measham (signed copy), Dani Lawson, Dino Nathanael and Christoph Stolzlechner (all unsigned).





CLOUD NINE!

Wales Player of the Year Natasha Harding is flourishing in the number nine role, and she's up for the cup...

Liverpool Ladies attacker Natasha Harding is targeting an FA Cup semi-final win against former club Manchester City this month as she aims to continue her early-season scoring streak.

The experienced Welsh international – the current FAW Women's Player of the Year – has found the net in both of the Reds' victories in the tournament so far, putting her name on the scoresheet in a 2-1 win over Everton in round five and a 2-0 defeat of Notts County in the quarter-final.

After scoring three goals last season in her debut campaign with the club, she is delighted to have hit the ground running in 2017 with two in two.

"It's not bad to start with and hopefully I've shown that I can actually score!" she says. "I think it's just that last season wasn't my year even though I worked hard. This year I've been playing in a number nine role which I think suits both me and the team a bit more.

"I think [manager] Scott Rogers and [assistant-manager] Phil Backhouse realise that they have had a 'nine' under their noses all this time. They know that I make runs for fun, bring other people into the play, do all the selfless stuff and that I'll be a pain in the bum for defenders. So hopefully it's going to benefit the team and benefit me going forward."

Both Natasha's goals in those cup ties were assisted by Caroline Weir, the midfielder who is the current Liverpool Ladies Player of the Year and Scotland Player of the Year. She hopes they can enjoy a fruitful partnership.

"It's about time Caz got some assists! To be fair, she has great awareness and I love playing with her in the 10 role as she just finds me every time.



Her assist for the goal against Everton was top-class and we also had a good combination against Notts County and Caz also finished the game with a goal and an assist.

"I was happy with my goal against Notts County, although some of the girls told me they thought it had gone wide at first which just shows the confidence they have in me! But I believe I have the ability to score goals. I'm also in a better place mentally this year and feeling confident and I knew as soon as I hit it, it was going 'top bins' as they say!"

The Reds began their season with that derby victory over Everton, a game which needed extra-time before Shanice van de Sanden's header secured a 2-1 success. Natasha, who won her 50th international cap for Wales last season, was unable to train in the week leading up to the tie and had been a doubt for the game.

"The situation we're in at the moment is a bit different as we have quite a small squad. I think if we had a few



"THE BOSS KNOWS I MAKE RUNS FOR FUN AND CAN BRING OTHERS INTO THE PLAY"

All action against Notts County…

…and among the goals

more players, I probably wouldn't have played in the Everton game but thankfully I did, I scored and we got the win. It was a case of management and I was always going to come off after 60 to 65 minutes. I recovered well during the week and felt ready and raring to go for the Notts County match.

"We were quite rusty against Everton and switched off in key moments but to be fair that's credit to Everton and that's how they got their goal. But against Notts County we were fully focused and I think our fitness, our technical ability and our willingness to win really shone through.

"We out-did them in every aspect. We fought, we battled really well, won the second balls and we nullified them. Going forward, I felt we played them off the park and were unlucky not to win it by a few more goals. But the main thing was that we were in the hat for the next round."



"WE REALLY, REALLY WANT TO GET TO THE FA CUP FINAL AND HOPEFULLY WIN IT"

The Reds know they face a tough task against Manchester City, the FA WSL 1 champions, if they are to win a place in the Wembley final on Saturday 13 May. That said, Liverpool were the only team to take points off City in both league games against them last season, following a 0-0 stalemate at Widnes with a 1-1 draw at the Academy Stadium.

"It's great to be in the semis and it's about time we brought some joy to the club again," adds Natasha. "We've got a great squad considering it's a small one. We've got excellent technical ability and probably one of the quickest top-lines in the league so we'll hurt anyone on our day.

"The Notts County game showed that we can actually be a force in the FA Cup and hopefully that puts us in good stead for the forthcoming Spring Series as well.

"It's going to be tough against Manchester City but it will be hard going against any team at this stage of the competition. It was unfortunate that another of my old clubs, Bristol, couldn't do the job against City in the last round [losing 2-1] but to get to the FA Cup final you have to beat the bigger teams and we're all really looking forward to that game."

The 28-year-old, who spent the 2015 season at City, was set to join up with the Wales squad for two friendlies against Northern Ireland at the start of this month before returning to Widnes to begin preparations for the cup clash.

"We'll come back in after going away on international duty and work on our game-plan," she explains.

"We really, really want to get to the final and hopefully win it. That's the ambition that we have as individuals and as a club and hopefully we can put ourselves back on top."

Scott Rogers on Natasha Harding

"Tash is doing a very good job in the 'nine' role. We knew she could do it. With her intelligent runs, her finishing and her energy, she gives us a different option. Who's to say that we won't use that all season? We've got a lot of options at the minute and even though we have a small squad we have quite a few possibilities to move it round and change systems. I think that's the beauty of us at the minute: we're almost keeping people guessing. Other teams can try and predict how we're going to play but we tweaked it against Notts County so it was different to how we played in the Everton game. It keeps people guessing and the girls are intelligent enough to do it."





Ladies



SPRING SERIES FIXTURES 2017

v Reading FC Women
Friday 28th April, KO 7pm

v Sunderland AFC Ladies
Wednesday 17th May, KO 7pm

v Notts County Ladies FC
Wednesday 31st May, KO 7pm

v Manchester City Women
Saturday 3rd June, KO 2pm

Online Prices

Adults
£5

Child & Concessions
£2.50

Family (2+2)
£12

Tickets can be purchased online from liverpoolfc.com/ladiestickets. Tickets purchased at the turnstiles on a matchday are priced at £6 adults; £3 children/concessions; £15 family. Please note the stadium can only take cash payments on matchdays. Children under 16 years. Concessions are students, seniors 65+ years and disabled supporters.
Please note: you will be asked to show ID/proof of eligibility at the turnstiles on matchdays. Family tickets are for 2 adults and 2 children under 16 years. Please note kick-off times are subject to change, for the latest fixture details visit

liverpoolfc.com/ladies

'WE'VE GOT A MANAGER WHO'S PUT FAITH IN YOUNG PLAYERS AND SAID: IF YOUR MENTALITY AND ABILITY IS RIGHT, YOU WILL GET A CHANCE"

Nick Marshall, head of Academy football operations at Liverpool FC, on the prospects, potential and perils of the game for today's youngsters

Tell us a bit about your background and how you got in to coaching...
I'm from Sheffield originally. I was the usual football-mad kid growing up, always playing with friends on the street and in local parks. I'd play everything, though, and probably represented my school team in pretty much every sport they did.

Strangely – because I'm not from a background where many kids played – I found myself playing a lot of tennis in the summer and discovered I was pretty good at it. I ended up in one of Yorkshire's training squads and won a few tournaments. I started to take it seriously, so that took over from all the other sports. But around 16 I started getting back into football and it began taking over my life! I played in any position but if I'm being realistic centre-half or left-back were my best roles.

I realised pretty early that I was never, ever going to be good enough to be a pro. You then have a decision to make: to carry on playing or not? I did because I loved it so much. I'd always worked well with kids in summer camps and stuff like that so I went to university to do sports science.

While there I was probably spending more time playing and working with the men's football team than studying. I also did a football summer camp in America and one of the guys running that recommended me to Barnsley FC so I started coaching there for free for two years. It was the under-13 team and then the under-14s.





So how did you progress from Barnsley to your current role at Liverpool?

My uncle was a coach at Barnsley FC so I assisted him for nothing. I got a tracksuit at the end of my first season there and then a drill-top at the end of the second year as payment! It was brilliant, though, a great experience.

Then we both moved to Leeds United but worked in different areas of their academy set-up. In those days you could have a main centre of excellence and a satellite centre. He worked at the main centre, I worked at the satellite centre for two years and over that period staff gradually left. Finally it was me, one other coach and a goalkeeping coach.

So I ended up almost organising the place which was brilliant because I was only 24 or 25 at the time. During my years there I was also coaching Sheffield University's men's football team and kids at local centres. Pretty much six days per week I was coaching and doing some teaching-type work and still managing to play twice a week too.

Then the academy manager at Leeds, Paul Hart, moved to Nottingham Forest and offered me a role there as full-time centre of excellence director, in charge of the nine-to-16s. I did that for a few years then another year in charge of the 17s-to-19s programme. Then Paul moved up to the first team so I became the youngest academy manager in the country, a role I stayed in for 12 years.

When I left Forest I did a year working for the FA as a coaching mentor, basically mentoring coaches at six professional clubs around the country. Then Alex Inglethorpe [at Liverpool FC Academy] gave me a ring. We didn't know each other really well but had bumped into each other a few times when Spurs [Inglethorpe's old club] had played Forest. It didn't take me long to make my mind up to take up his offer. I grew up watching the Liverpool team of the late 1970s and 80s and my wife is a Scouser and Liverpool fan so I didn't have a choice!

How has youth football changed in that time?

It's just grown enormously. When I first started full-time [at Forest] there were five full-time members of staff, whereas now there are 60 or 70 at a lot of academies and in some places it's in the hundreds. That's in terms of dealing with the kids and having an input: everything from sports science to the drivers to education. At the beginning it was really easy to have a message and drive it home because the numbers were so small. That becomes more difficult when the operation grows.

And have kids changed during the same time period?

We still get the same sort of kids now, street kids who are out all of the time playing football. We definitely have some lads like that here. We also have kids who don't really watch football matches or play outside of the Academy. They spend more time on FIFA than actually looking at a real game. That's not always a bad thing because they can tell us about players abroad that are on the game and what they are good at! They are educating themselves about football in a different way and we need to be aware of that and understand it.

The types of kids at some academies can become all the same: they all end up being from a similar background because it's such a big commitment to get to training a few times per week and then also games at the weekend. That's not always cheap or simple for parents. Here at Liverpool we've tried to make it less demanding to ensure that the mixture of kids and their backgrounds varies.


Coaching youngsters at Kirkby today




WATCH EVERY U23s Premier League 2 GAME



Describe a typical Academy day for you...

Each day can be so different and my role means I work in different areas. One day I can be focusing on making sure the games programme for our players is as good as it can be, for example organising a tournament. The next I might find myself going to watch a player with one of the recruitment staff, the next day sitting with Alex to discuss our coaching programme.

In terms of coaching at the moment I focus on the foundation stage, the six-to-11s. Alex is head of coaching at the older end, Steve Heighway the 12-to-16s and I'm working with the youngest lads and really enjoy it.

One of the parents said recently the players at that age are real believers in what you tell them and she was exactly right. They want to learn so much and are so open to the ideas. When they get to the teenage stage – which I know from experience – that can change a little bit. We can give the younger players a fantastic grounding in terms of what we expect and what we ask from them on the pitch. We can also give them the technical tools to push on and progress. That's our aim.

How crucial is the attitude of parents for the kids making it?

After the kid themselves, the parents are the most important people in the whole development process. I've done some presentations to the younger kids' parents recently, the seven-to-11s, talking to them about their role. As part of the preparation I spoke to Steve Heighway. He said he doesn't know of one kid at Liverpool who made it with disruptive parents. All of those who did make it had supportive parents.

We have a duty to help the parents and make sure they grasp why we are doing something a particular way. The club has to support them so they can support the kid. It has to be a two-way thing. Every parent loves their kid and wants them to do well; sometimes they just need help to be as good as they can be in a football sense.

A good example of what I'm talking about occurred this season. We'd been speaking to a boy about getting out wide on the touchline when we had possession in the middle. That's not to say that every single time he should be out wide when he's an adult. But for now it was for a technical thing we wanted him to work on, it was something specific. His dad, at the same time, was telling him to go more inside. The dad is thinking like an adult when he looks at a senior match, that someone in that position could drop inside. He's not wrong to assume it, but in this stage of the boy's development it's not what he needs. So the kid ends up confused.

The dad hasn't done anything wrong – he just doesn't understand the context. It's where a well-meaning parent who loves his kid wasn't quite tuned in to our message and it caused a problem for the lad. When we figured all of this out, the look on the mum's face was priceless. It was probably an interesting car-journey home!

In such a situation we have to look at ourselves and ask is there something we could do differently. Maybe we need to encourage the boy to ask more questions. So you have to keep checking your own thinking.

One of your main duties is overseeing what's called the 'games programme' – can you tell us what exactly that involves?

We feel the type of matches that we give our kids are hugely important. A lot of clubs dismiss that or don't think about it too much. For us it is hugely important. The games programme starts at under-9 level and the idea is that over the course of a season we want our kids to experience different types of games.

For the youngest groups we want easy or less stressful games because we want them to express themselves and enjoy it. They can't be worrying about mistakes or afraid to try things. For example, if you want them to be good dribblers they need to do that in games and that's easier in a less stressful game. At that age we break it down to 40:40:20 in terms of the ratio of games: 40 per cent easy, 40 per cent middle, and 20 per cent stressful. As they get older that ratio moves and the more stressful percentage grows.

The idea is that the easier games allow players to be creative and score lots of goals. That's fantastic for front-half-of-the-pitch players. But then we also want games that are really difficult and stressful for different reasons such as being up against top opposition. That's really good for our goalkeepers and defenders to play in.

Or it might be a physical test or a mental test. A mental test could be a game against Everton because it's a derby and matters so much


Marshall has seen times change at LFC



to everyone. We also want a set of games where you are up against sides that are more or less your equal. That evenly-matched scenario then becomes more about who performs on the day.

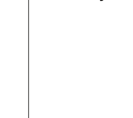
Going to tournaments is a big part of how we find the amount of different types of games we want. I'm very lucky here in that Phil Roscoe, our education officer, is a massive help and plays a big role in this part of our games programme.

We went to more tournaments last year than any other club in the country, 46 in total across all of the age-groups. I think they are a fantastic experience for the kids. You are playing against top European opposition in different circumstances. You are up against different styles of play. There is a trophy at stake. You are away from the comforts of the familiar academy environment. The lads probably learn more in two or three days at a tournament than they would in two months here. So we think carefully about those.

Within the team-framework, individual players might need a different set of games too. For example, you might want a really young striker to play mainly in the slightly easier games in order to develop his confidence and help him improve initially. Overall the games programme is a big part of what we're trying to do.







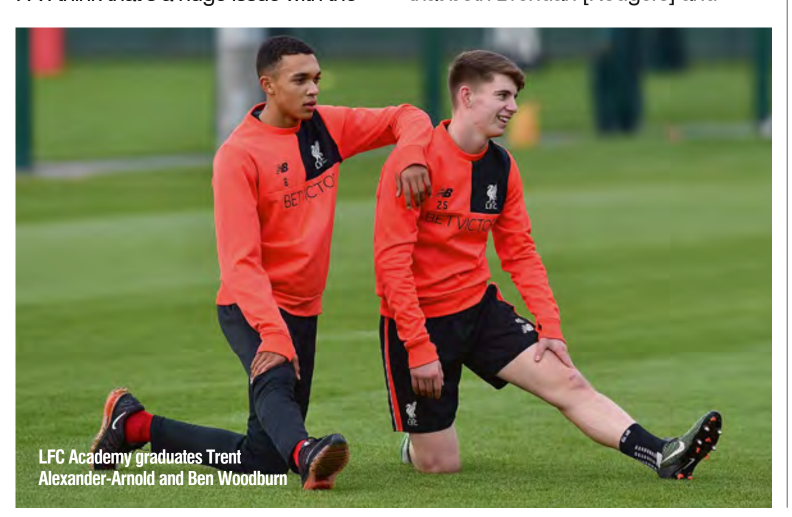
The boss at a recent Academy match

Every job comes with frustrations – what are yours?

It's when you work really, really hard and the kids work really hard; then they get to a level where they need that further chance to progress but they don't get it. It's like any job: you reach a level where you need to be tested more in order to improve and grow; but if you don't move up, you can't progress. You can't get better so instead you stagnate, and when that happens others move past you.

After spending a year around the FA I think that's a huge issue with the England senior team right now. I truly feel our players in this country are as good as any other country at the age of 16, 17 or 18. But we get killed after that level. Other countries have so many more of their players playing senior football regularly whereas ours don't. So they stop developing and eventually start to go backwards while lads of the same age in other countries are growing and developing. That is the most frustrating thing for a lot of youth coaches in this country. It's out of their hands, too.

At Liverpool we've been lucky in that both Brendan [Rodgers] and now Jürgen are willing to give young players a chance. They have both put young players into games and not just 'smaller' games. Jürgen started Trent Alexander-Arnold away at Old Trafford. That is an unbelievable show of faith and should say to the young lads here that if their mentality and ability is right they will get a chance.



LFC Academy graduates Trent Alexander-Arnold and Ben Woodburn

If that's the main frustration, which part of the role gives you the most satisfaction?

The biggest thing is seeing the kids progress onwards. We're a football club so if they can play in our first team that's the ultimate. If they go and have a career somewhere else, that's great too. One of my biggest buzzes, though, has been seeing a kid who was in a lot of trouble in London come out of there and, although he didn't make it at the club I was working for, turn his life around. He's set up his own coaching company and is doing very well now. That gave me a lot of satisfaction, as much as working with other kids who've gone on to play for England or in the Premier League.

Some people consider a player making his first-team debut an Academy success; how do you define it?

A debut or maybe three or four games is obviously great for the player himself and the staff who have worked with him. But it's only when we get a young lad through who goes on to play 30 games or more that you can really call it a success. Nobody here ever gets carried away by one or two appearances. We always want to achieve more and get more players through each season.

SWISS ROLL

Part four of our series celebrating the 40th anniversary of the 1977 European Cup win, and it's Zurich in the last four



Liverpool FC. Champions of England. Borussia Moenchengladbach. Champions of West Germany. Dynamo Kiev. Champions of the Soviet Union. FC Zurich. Champions of Switzerland…

The last four of the 1976/77 European Cup had taken shape and it was clear who the Reds wanted in the semi-final draw.

Fussballclub Zurich had knocked Rangers and Dynamo Dresden out of the competition that season but had previously lost in Europe to Kilmarnock and Wrexham, making them the weakest semi-finalists – and Liverpool's opponents. Bob Paisley's side got lucky to be paired with the Swiss club, but having been denied a place in the 1965 European Cup final by suspect refereeing in Milan perhaps the Reds were due a favourable draw. That's what they got.

Boot Room member Tom Saunders flew out to Switzerland to scout Zurich a couple of times and Paisley was privately pleased with the reports he got back – captain Emlyn Hughes told pressmen off the record they were no better than an English Fourth Division side – but wasn't going to say so publicly. "In seasons gone by we have tended to underestimate some opposition like Ajax and Trabzonspor," said Bob, "but



there is no way in which we are going to underestimate Zurich. I am cautious but at the same time optimistic."

The first leg was held in Letzigrund – the stadium FC Zurich now share with Grasshoppers Zurich – but many Kopites opted not to travel to the land of Toblerone with their TAG Heuer watches already set for a date in Rome on 25 May. "Only two planes went out today," a spokesman for Town's Travel, the company organising fans trips, told the *Liverpool Daily Post*. "This is an exceptionally low number for a European tie. The fans are definitely watching their pennies and saving for the trip to Rome."

Paisley was without the injured trio of Phil Thompson, Ian Callaghan and John Toshack for the game – which happened to be an English-record 88th European match for the Reds – and when they arrived in Zurich they were picked up by coach driver Dave Grace who had moved to Switzerland from the Wirral. "The lads should have no trouble," he said. "It will be 3-1 and that's only because Liverpool are too kind to rub it in."

Zurich coach Timo Konietzka had a different view on things: "Liverpool are not the sort of team that can change its rhythm. If we can force them to, with our good technical game, we have a chance. Only Keegan and Heighway are technically above-average."

Ironically it was Heighway who would make the Swiss look below-average, but not before the hosts had taken a shock sixth-minute lead when Tommy Smith brought down Alfred Scheiwiler in the box. Peter Risi stepped up to take the spot-kick and although Ray Clemence dived the right way, he could only deflect the ball into the net via his fingertips.

Smith was booked moments later for a foul on Rene Botteron, Zurich's star man, but he soon man-marked the playmaker out of the game as the Reds took charge and levelled matters in the 14th minute. Ray Kennedy curled an angled free-kick towards the far post where right-back Phil Neal arrived late to chest the ball down and poke it into the net from the edge of the six-yard box. One-one.

Joey Jones was denied by keeper Karl Grob, but three minutes after the interval Heighway left the Zurich defence looking holier than a local cheese when he shrugged off two defenders, twisted his way past a third and slotted the ball past the onrushing Grob to score one of the most underrated solo goals you've probably never seen (have a look on YouTube).

With 67 minutes on the cuckoo clock Heighway was through again, racing onto a David Fairclough flick, only to be hauled down by Max Heer in the box. Up stepped Neal and, despite a large number of men in raincoats strangely standing behind the goal, he sent Grob the wrong way to effectively send the Reds to Rome as chants of "Liverpool are magic!" rang out from the small contingent of travelling Kopites.

Der Stadtclub (the City Club) would now have to beat Liverpool by three

LFC's three goals in the Zurich first leg















Kevin Keegan heads for goal in the second leg

goals in the second leg at Anfield – the likes of which had never been done before – and not for a moment did they look like getting close.

Paisley's men were still chasing the treble at this point and with the return game coming three days before the FA Cup semi-final against Everton at Maine Road, Bob must've been tempted to rest a few players. But he didn't. "It's like being 3-1 up at half-time," he said after being named Manager of the Month for March 1977, which saw him being presented with a bottle of Bell's Whisky on the pitch before kick-off. "The last thing you do is to stop trying to score three goals and there's no way there will be a complacent approach from Liverpool. With no disrespect to Everton, this is our first priority."

Zurich's fans turned up in numbers anyway. Around 3,500 of them descended on the city – many of whom were more than happy to pay under 40p for a pint instead of up to £1.50 back home – and they found Liverpool to be full of rubbish, quite literally, due to an ongoing bin-strike.

A crowd of 50,611 packed inside Anfield, producing record gate-receipts of £110,000. But Zurich striker Franco Cucinotta had predicted, "We are coming to a funeral – ours" and there was a lack of belief from the visitors and little excitement in the stands despite the Reds being on the verge of a maiden European Cup final.

In truth Liverpool played within themselves and strolled to a 3-0 victory with Jimmy Case opening the scoring

"IT'S ONLY HALF-TIME AND THERE IS NO WAY WE WILL BE COMPLACENT IN THE SECOND LEG"

in the 33rd minute after robbing Pierre-Albert Chapuisat of possession outside the box and hammering a shot home.

Cucinotta had a decent second-half chance after rounding Clemence (who was strangely wearing an adidas-branded green goalkeeper shirt while his team-mates had their usual Umbro red jerseys) but hit the side-netting. Then Case rifled in a slightly deflected free-kick from 25 yards out and Keegan completed a 6-1 aggregate victory when he nodded in the rebound after substitute Alan Waddle had headed against the bar.

Although it was something of an anti-climax compared to St Etienne – "We played it low-key and it was probably a little disappointing to reach a final in that way," admitted Emlyn Hughes – the fact remained that Liverpool had reached a first European Cup final and the Kop wanted everybody to know. "Ita-lee Ita-lee, we're the greatest team in Europe and we're going to Ita-lee!" they sang. The following day the *Liverpool Echo* revealed secretary Peter Robinson had already booked the team hotel while adverts for return-flights to Rome, starting at £69 from Luton, began to appear.

"The only reason I've stayed here was to get to the final and we've done it," commented Keegan, who had already lined up a summer move to SV Hamburg. "The Borussia Moenchengladbach game has got to be a cracking match and I just hope the best team wins – and that it is us!"

The last word, though, has to go to the reluctant genius that was Bob Paisley and his dry-witted response to being asked about taking Liverpool to Rome on 25 May: "The last time I was in Rome I was in an anti-tank regiment in 1945 and it was an open city. I hope it is the same when I go back."

It was still open, but with one noticeable difference. The Rome of 1945 didn't have over 25,000 Liverpool supporters waving red-and-white flags like the Rome of 1977 would…

SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG
6 April 1977 FC Zurich 1 Liverpool 3
Clemence, Neal, Jones, Smith, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Case, Heighway, Fairclough, McDermott. **Subs not used:** McDonnell, Kettle, Lee, Johnson, Waddle.
GOALS: Neal (14, 67pen), Heighway (48).

SEMI-FNAL SECOND LEG
20 April 1977 Liverpool 3 FC Zurich 0
Clemence, Neal, Jones, Smith, Kennedy, Hughes, Keegan, Case, Heighway (Waddle 70), McDermott, Johnson. **Subs not used:** McDonnell, Kettle, Lee, Fairclough.
GOALS: Case (33, 79), Keegan (83).

Words: Chris McLoughlin


L.F.C.



Neil Mellor

If we can avoid more injuries we can nail that Champions League spot

Sadio Mane's contribution has been vital for Liverpool at key points and in big games this season. He's already become such an important player that the Reds really miss him when he's not available and he deserves credit for how quickly he has settled in following his move from Southampton.

Liverpool missed Mane when he was away with Senegal at the Africa Cup of Nations and the concern now, at the time of writing, is how long he will be out for after injuring his knee in the 3-1 win against Everton, because there isn't a natural replacement for Mane in the squad.

The combination of his explosive pace and work-rate is exceptional. I analysed his goal against Everton for LFCTV and I don't think there are many players in the Premier League who have the same explosiveness over five or 10 yards that Mane does to really get away from a player.

For that Merseyside derby goal he played a one-two with Roberto Firmino before scoring, but it was the way he left Tom Davies behind him that was so impressive. Davies is only young, but when he turned around Mane had gone. That explosiveness is Mane's main strength and makes such a difference to the Liverpool side because it scares opponents.

He creates fear in defences, he can finish and when any team has got such pace it gives you a constant threat going forward. When Mane presses at pace it encourages others to follow and he's equally capable of both running at, and getting in behind, defences, making him a hugely valuable player.

His goal against Everton was his 13th in 27 Premier League games, his best league tally since playing in England. That's an excellent record for an exciting player who gets the Anfield crowd involved – there's anticipation that something might happen whenever he's on the ball – and who has shown more consistency than perhaps he managed at Southampton.

For me, he's challenging Adam Lallana for Liverpool's player of the year award. Lallana has been the main man as far as I'm concerned, but Mane's contribution has been vital – six of his goals have come against Arsenal, Tottenham and Everton – and he's currently LFC's leading goalscorer.

At the age of 24 there's also more to come. Mane's threat on the counter-attack will be a real weapon for Liverpool in Europe next season. Hopefully we'll be in the Champions League because I can see him being a big player who makes a difference in tight games at tough venues in that competition, particularly on the counter-attack.

Liverpool Football Club is a platform for players to become world-class. It is big enough and has the global standing to provide that stage for great players to become world-class.

"BEING WITHOUT MANE IS TOUGH BUT AT LEAST WE'VE PLAYED THE OTHER TOP TEAMS"

If you show top quality on a consistent basis in a red shirt you will soon find yourself talked about in that world-class bracket.

Look at Luis Suarez. He arrived at Liverpool from Ajax as a great player but left for Barcelona as a world-class one. Philippe Coutinho is in a similar position. He's enhanced his reputation significantly, given the platform to do so at Liverpool, and I believe that both Mane and Lallana can go on to do the same if they can show the same consistency over the next couple of years, both domestically and in Europe.

Whether they'll get the opportunity to do that in the Champions League is still uncertain, but Liverpool are in a strong position to meet that target. One Champions League campaign in seven years is a record that must be improved upon so that was always the first aim for the Reds in 2016/17.

Can we go on to achieve it? Being without Jordan Henderson, Lallana and Mane for any length of time will make securing qualification more of a challenge, but the good thing is Liverpool have played all the other top sides and, if you look at their remaining fixtures, you'll see that they will all take points off one another during the run-in.

Liverpool must capitalise on that and if we can avoid injuries to other crucial players – I'm thinking Coutinho and Firmino in particular – then I'm encouraged to think this side has the goals in it to achieve the top-four finish that Jürgen Klopp is after.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33


Which member of the Liverpool FC first-team squad made his 100th appearance for the club in the 1-1 Premier League draw against Chelsea at Anfield in January? Answer on page 98
88 YOUNGSTERS UNITE
91 TRAINING PLANS
95 LFC FOUNDATION
96 OFFICIAL GOODIES
CLUB
Reds and Blues Academy players come together, plus latest LFC official gear
LIVERPOOL
FOOTBALL CLUB
EST·1892

A TIME TO REFLECT

Reds and Blues unite to remember contribution of Chinese Labour Corps

Last month 15 youngsters from the Liverpool FC Academy were joined by their Everton FC counterparts as part of the project *The Unremembered: World War One's Army of Workers*, to remember the sacrifice of the Chinese Labour Corps and those buried in the city of Liverpool.

Ahead of the Merseyside derby, the group visited five Chinese Labour Corps graves at Anfield Cemetery, situated of course between the two football clubs, where they laid white flowers and lit 30 white candles embossed with both club emblems during a moving rendition of the Last Post on the Chinese flute.

The players were also given a tour of Liverpool's Chinatown – the oldest of its kind in Europe.

Phil Roscoe, head of education and welfare at Liverpool FC, said: "It was an absolute privilege for both teams to be involved in this event to remember















the sacrifice of the Chinese Labour Corps. It is crucial that the players are educated on off-the-field matters such as WW1, so it was a real honour to be able to remember those that sadly passed away.

"We have a great relationship with Everton FC and today only highlighted the importance of unity. I would like to thank all those involved for making this poignant event happen."

The Unremembered marks a century since the Labour Corps were recruited from around the British Empire to build roads and railways and provide the Allied Forces with essential supplies. There's more information at **www.theunremembered.org.**

ALTOGETHER NOW

Plans are afoot to have first-team training and the Liverpool FC Academy at the same new site


Steven Gerrard at Kirkby

Liverpool FC recently announced a joint-plan with Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council to redevelop the Academy site in Kirkby, including improvements for local residents and the community playing fields at Simonswood Lane.

The vision is to bring LFC's first team and Academy football training operations and facilities together on one site. The club's chief operating officer Andy Hughes says: "Melwood has played a significant role in the club's success and forms an important part of our history, but the site is limited in space and is unable to accommodate our longer-term ambitions."

Liverpool FC first acquired the 13-acre site we now know as Melwood



in 1950. Prior to the football club purchasing the land it had been the property of St Francis Xavier school, or SFX for short, and it was that link which provided the name for the L12 location. Two members of staff at the school, Father Melling and Father Woodlock, had spent hours out on the field teaching the students how to play football. To honour the duo the first syllable of their surnames were joined together to create 'Melwood'!

When Bill Shankly was appointed manager in December 1959 he was far from impressed by what he found on the site, which was a short stroll from his home in West Derby. "It was a sorry wilderness," he later pointed out in his autobiography. "But I said to [my wife] Ness: 'Well, it's big and it can be developed. At least there is space here'."

Shanks immediately set about rectifying the situation and detailed the Anfield ground staff to improve the training pitches that he said contained "trees, hills, hollows and grass long enough for Jimmy Melia to hide in standing up!"

After Bill's improvements, the Melwood facility remained largely unchanged until the return of former skipper Graeme Souness as manager in 1991. The Scot's time playing in Italy with Sampdoria meant he had absorbed new ideas about how teams should prepare for games at their training base. "Graeme wanted top-class facilities and brought in many continental methods," explained Ronnie Moran, still a member of the backroom staff at that point.



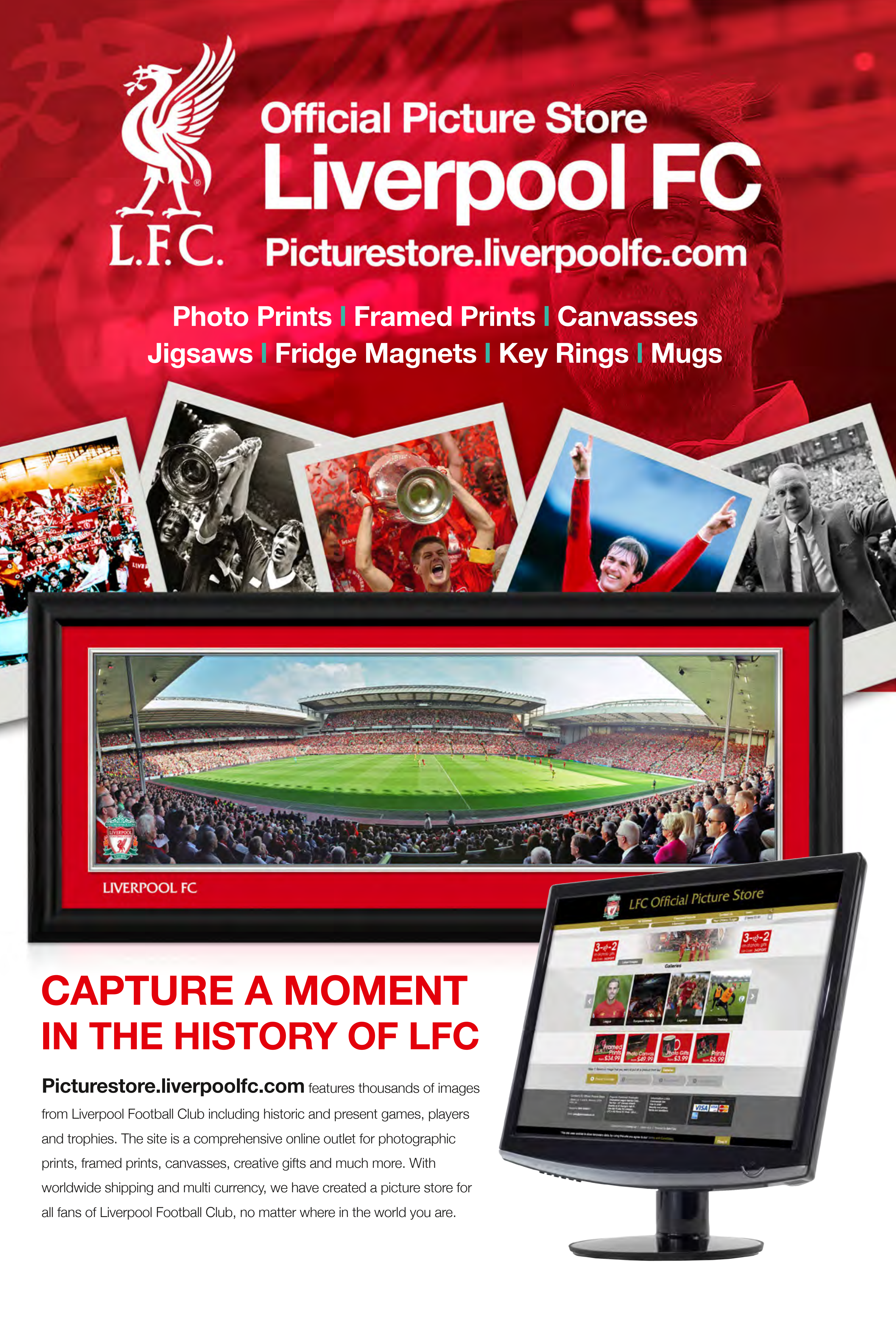
Action from the current Academy site

Modernisation continued under Roy Evans and went a step further again when Gerard Houllier instigated a major renovation project at the turn of the century. The French manager was involved in the design of what was dubbed 'the Millennium Pavilion'.

"There will be new changing areas, a gymnasium, swimming pools, saunas, a hydrotherapy pool and rehabilitation rooms," he announced when the spectacular plans were revealed. "It will be more in tune with what a club of this standard wants to achieve."

In recent years further improvements have been made to ensure that as the game continues to change and evolve, Liverpool FC's training base has done the same. Now, though, an exciting new era is on the horizon.

Melwood as we know it now



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BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER



Rounding up some of the latest initiatives from the club's official charity

The LFC Foundation has teamed up with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service to deliver new practical and educational activities to local youngsters.

Building on the success of the Foundation's Premier League Kicks programme, Kicks Football + is a new collaboration to help encourage personal growth and development. Some of the sessions that will be delivered include: emergency first-aid, road safety, safe internet use, arson awareness and the dangers of knife crime.

To celebrate the launch, LFC ambassador Gary McAllister attended a preview event at the Toxteth Fire Fit Hub, which showcased some of the activities that Kicks Football + will offer. Medical students from the charity Street Doctors gave guests an overview of life-saving first-aid, and representatives from Young Addaction were also present to demonstrate their friendly and expert advice on drugs and alcohol.

The Premier League's flagship community programme, Kicks uses the power of football to bring communities together and engage hard-to-reach youngsters in constructive activities. The LFC Foundation has delivered Kicks across Merseyside for many years. It currently runs nine evening sessions every week across seven different sites, engaging with youngsters from the ages of 8-19 years.

Meanwhile 24 junior football teams recently battled it out in the Premier League Schools Tournament regional finals at the Liverpool FC Academy. The competition, hosted by the LFC Foundation, saw 170 schools compete over seven months, with two-dozen making it to the regional finals. Bidston Avenue Primary School, from the Wirral, were this year's winners and will now travel to Stamford Bridge in West London to represent LFC at the national finals in May.

The Premier League Schools Tournament is one of the highlights of the Premier League Communities calendar and allows hundreds of youngsters the chance to experience the thrill of being treated like a top-flight footballer.

THE LFC FOUNDATION IS THE OFFICIAL CHARITY OF LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB. WE CREATE LIFE CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN MERSEYSIDE AND BEYOND. FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @LFCFOUNDATION




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VISARO


new balance


ALWAYS
IN BETA


CREATE

